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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Castro Urges End to War Through Negotiation *[San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA 22 Jul]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Imevision Interviews Castro on Guadalajara Summit *[Havana Radio]* 2
Mandela To Stop in Havana En Route to Jamaica *[Havana TV]* 9
Greeted by Castro *[Havana TV]* 9
Ortega Arrives To Attend Moncada Ceremonies *[Havana TV]* 9
Ross Chairs ANIR Evaluation Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 9
Escalona Says Combative Spirit in Difficulty *[Havana TV]* 10
New Computer System Installed for News Programs *[Havana TV]* 10
* Rumors Regarding 'Zero Option' Discussed *[BOHEMIA 31 May]* 10

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Camwork Seeks Cooperation With Other Media *[CANA]* 11
Belize, Mexico Issue Cooperation Communique *[CANA]* 11

Dominican Republic

Armed Forces, Police Chiefs View Strike Plans *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 12
Detained Haitians Riot, Demand Repatriation *[Santo Domingo Radio/TV]* 12

Haiti

Ministry Announces IMF Negotiations To Continue *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Groups Denounce Macoute Antigovernment Plot *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Reportage on Repatriation of Haitians 12
Bahamian Consul Comments *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Balaguer Expells Over 300 *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13

Jamaica

ANC President Mandela Pays One-Day Visit 13
Arrives From Spain *[Nassau Radio]* 13
Pleads for Sanctions *[CANA]* 13
Calls for Interim Government *[Umtata Radio]* 14
Police Fire Into Crowd, 1 Dead *[CANA]* 14

MEXICO

Government Signs Credit Agreement With Canada *[Mexico City TV]* 15
Canadian Ambassador Meets Business Executives *[Mexico City TV]* 15

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

FMLN Political Commission To Emerge Publicly *[DIARIO LATINO 23 Jul]* 16

Honduras

Armed Forces Accused in Hernandez Murder *[AFP]* 17

Nicaragua

Officials Address FSLN Congress 22 Jul 17
Lacayo Speaks *[Managua Radio]* 17
Ramirez on Election *[BARRICADA 22 Jul]* 19
Radio Rumbo Returns After Sandinist Seizure *[Managua Radio]* 20
Recontras Attack Power Plant, Kill Guard *[Managua Radio]* 20

Panama

Free Zone Government, Strikers Said Deadlocked *[Panama City TV]* 20

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Against U.S. Wheat Sale to PRC *[TELAM]* 22
Reportage on Charges Against Air Force Official 22
Minister Denies Changes *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 22
Charges Reiterated *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 24 Jul]* 22
Yoma Tenders Resignation; Accepted by Menem *[TELAM]* 23
Violence Marks Battle for Justicialist Leadership *[BUENOS AIRES HERLAD 24 Jul]* 23
Tear Gas Grenade Thrown at Station in Cordoba 23
Incident Reported *[TELAM]* 23
Grenade Activated 'Accidentally' *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 23

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Evaluates Ibero-American Summit *[La Paz TV]* 23
Ministers Negotiate Extradition Treaty in U.S. *[La Paz Radio]* 24
Foreign Minister Comments *[Madrid EFE]* 24
Legislator Criticizes Trip *[PRESENCIA 21 Jul]* 25
Umopar, U.S. Personnel Begin Military Course 26
Personnel Arrives *[PRESENCIA 16 Jul]* 26
Violence Attributed to Training *[LA PRESENCIA 16 Jul]* 26
Traffickers Said Moving to 'Inaccessible' Areas *[PRESENCIA 16 Jul]* 27
Government Official on Antiterrorist Measures *[PRESENCIA 16 Jul]* 27

Brazil

Collor Remarks Seen as Foreign Policy Shift *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 23 Jul]* 27
Collor Promulgates 1986 U.S. Antidrug Agreement *[Brasilia Radio]* 28
President Signs Law on Social Security Benefits *[Brasilia Radio]* 29
Minister Soothes Military Over Salaries Issue *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 23 Jul]* 29
Multinational Companies on Investment Obstacles *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 18 Jul]* 29
Flow of Foreign Capital Hits 10 Year Peak *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 20 Jul]* 30

Chile

Air Force Official Labels Transition 'Positive' *[Santiago Radio]* 31
Navy Chief Says Exercises Integrate Forces *[Santiago Radio]* 31

Minister Comments on Health Workers' Strike *[Santiago TV]* 31
Carabineros Station Attacked; 9 Rebels Arrested *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Prosecutor Indicts Two Lautaro Group Members *[Santiago TV]* 32
Chile, Zambia Resume Ties; Agreement Signed *[Madrid EFE]* 32

Colombia

Government, Guerrillas Obey 48-Hour Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 32

Ecuador

* Ruling Party Maintains Alliance With Liberals *[EL COMERCIO 4 Jul]* 33
* Armed Forces Respond to Bucaram's Comments *[EL COMERCIO 4 Jul]* 33
* Nebot Qualifies Support for Labor Reforms *[EL UNIVERSO 28 Jun]* 34
* 'Great Potential' for Free Trade Zone Noted *[EL UNIVERSO 29 Jun]* 34

Paraguay

Cuban Diplomat Views Bilateral Rapprochement *[ABC COLOR 24 Jul]* 35

Peru

Cabinet Resigns on Anniversary of Government *[Madrid EFE]* 35
Terrorists Kill Businessman of Japanese Origin *[Madrid EFE]* 35
Japanese Youth Aid Workers To Return Home *[Tokyo KYODO]* 36
Guerrilla Paper Criticizes Japanese-Peruvians *[Tokyo KYODO]* 36
* Captured Terrorist Denies Press Allegations *[CAMBIO 27 Jun]* 36
* Apurimac Growers Comment on Antidrug Agreement *[EXPRESO 7 Jul]* 38
* Executive Legislation Guidelines Published *[EL COMERCIO 18 Jun]* 39

Guyana

Western Donors Offer To Ease Debt Burden *[CANA]* 40
Green 'May Challenge' Hoyte for PNC Leadership *[CANA]* 40
Parliament Again Extended for Election Plans *[CANA]* 41
Opposition Leader on Ruling Party Leadership *[CANA]* 41
WPA Unwilling To Sign Peace Accord *[CANA]* 41

Castro Urges End to War Through Negotiation

PA2507032991 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Jul 91 p 35

[Report by Mario Erwin Larin]

[Text] In responding to a question I asked, Cuban President Fidel Castro said that the war currently being waged in El Salvador must end.

During the inauguration of the first Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, Castro, who commanded an imposing presence with his nearly two meters in height and military uniform, was chased by many journalists who threw questions at him right and left waiting for an answer. (Upon hearing my question: President Castro! Do you believe the Salvadoran war must end?) He turned around, looked at me, and replied:

"A solution to the war is taking shape; I believe that we must promote and support the negotiations taking place to ensure that a solution is reached."

I again asked him, raising my voice amid the hullabaloo to ensure that he would hear my question: Do you believe the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should disarm? He replied: "Well, you are putting me in a very compromising position, that is, you are asking me to say what they should do; war cannot be ended by decree, but it can through negotiation, and we must promote that."

At that point he asked all journalists to give him a break, to allow him to leave the building, the chapel of the Cabanas Hospice, where 23 heads of state and five international officials had been seated around a table.

On the next day, at the Camino Real Hotel in Guadalajara, where all dignitaries were lodged, we waited a long time for Fidel Castro to leave his room to ask him about President Cristiani's complaints about his sending sophisticated arms to the FMLN to continue the war. He replied:

"I cannot answer that because I have heard nothing of that." He immediately turned around and started to walk toward room 5136 where the heads of state were to gather to leave together for the working meetings.

Once he entered the room he was greeted by Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez and they chatted, standing only three or four meters away from the main door, which was left open. Five minutes later President Cristiani arrived in the room and walked past behind Fidel Castro's back without exchanging any kind of greeting, reached a table, and sat down at it. Cristiani later stood up, walked toward the door, and asked an aide to give him work papers. He headed back to the table and sat down again. Castro was also unperturbed by President Cristiani's presence.

The next morning we asked President Cristiani about Castro's statements and he replied:

"Words are something and deeds something else. We do believe that he is influencing the war, if not, why do FMLN leaders travel to Cuba so frequently?

"The FMLN leadership constantly travels to Cuba; why? What else but to receive instructions?" Cristiani added.

"I believe that Fidel Castro can apply pressure on the FMLN; it is true that peace cannot be achieved by decree, but in all light there is no reason to want to continue the war."

In conclusion, he asked with vigor: "I would like to know the justification for preventing an end to the violence. He (Castro) knows well the progress achieved within the process and we know this," Cristiani added in a defiant tone.

Cuba

Imevision Interviews Castro on Guadalajara Summit

PA2407225491 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Interview with President Fidel Castro granted to Mexican Imevision television by unidentified reporter in Guadalajara, Mexico on 20 July—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Cuban President, we are here in Guadalajara. An unprecedented event has taken place. Cuba was seated at the big Latin American table but it was also seated in a very different position, with a discourse that sounded strong, at the Cabanas Center. How do you explain this? How important is it for life in your country and in Latin America?

[Castro] Well, I believe that we first need to talk a little about the background of our interview. We met in Havana. You explained to me that you were interviewing all Latin American presidents, and that I was the only one left. I was committed to granting you this interview. I would like to express my satisfaction for being able to fulfill this commitment, even after the summit, so you can complete your record.

Well, I sat at a round table. It was not very big. It was a table for some 20 people. I understand the meaning of the phrase, big table, that you used. As far as the opportunity of meeting for the first time with all Latin American presidents, I believe that the table was big, not only for Cuba but for all, in that for the first time in history since independence took place in this hemisphere, since the struggles for independence at the end of last century, we had never had such a meeting except when Washington called it. When Washington said: Come, everyone traveled to the United States, or wherever, at the same time. Of course, Cuba was never invited. This is why I see this meeting as a truly historic and far-reaching event, because it was called by Latin Americans and not the United States. This is the first time in history that we have done it, and I truly think it is unusual and uncommon. This is my view.

You were referring to the speeches. I truly expressed what I felt, and the views I had. It would have been hypocritical on my part if I had arrived at this meeting, spoke in a princely language, and did not say what I thought. I was respectful in the way I expressed myself. I was respectful to all. I was careful and did not get excited at any time, although I do have a relatively passionate personality. There were differences in some ideas and a little bit in the style because I like to use direct language and not beat around the bush. I would not dare to characterize my speech as contrasting or absolutely contrasting because many interesting, strong, and serious statements were made. I listened to each and every one of the speeches with a lot of interest. The way in which many talented leaders expressed themselves attracted my attention. They expressed themselves strongly on serious and deep matters. Therefore, it cannot be said that I was the exception.

I spoke on each one of the subjects. I do not know if the speeches will be published. I believe they were recorded on tape and by television. From a historical point of view, it would be interesting if all the speeches were published. I imagine that that will be in the hands of the organizers of the event. I spoke about each one of the subjects. At times I thought about not doing it because I did not think it was mandatory to refer to each and every one of the subjects, but I generally expected to make a reference to them. I spoke whenever I noted an important omission, or an omission on an important subject was made. I maintained the same respectful tone at all times. There was a dialogue. There were some hasty responses in exchanges. There was a good sense of humor. Jokes were made. There was a little bit of everything. It would be misleading if everything that was said was analyzed and the public, national and international opinion did not have the opportunity of having direct access to everything that was said. This is why I am endorsing that everything available on the summit be published.

[Reporter] I ask you this precisely because during the tour in which we spoke to many presidents, we noticed an almost unique direction in Latin America, a trend toward pragmatism, the deideologization of government matters, and market economy. In this sense, Cuba seems to be an island more than ever.

[Castro] Yes. My conclusion is that there may have been two moments—before and after the summit. Many of us did not know each other before the summit, and we did not know how the other thought. Of course, I have my views, I have my ideology. One cannot talk about deideologization because I believe there is more ideology than ever in the international sphere at this time. It is the ideology of capitalism and neoconservatism. This is an ideology. There is also a triumphalistic sense by the defenders of capitalism and the old and unjust international economic order that has existed in the world. There is talk about a new political international order, and what needs to be talked about is a new economic international order, of the new order that the United Nations approved many years ago to alleviate some of the poverty of three-fourths of humankind, to improve the development possibilities of the Third World people. I believe that there is more ideology than ever, and that it is the ideology of imperialism and capitalism. This is why one cannot talk about the end of ideology. In any case, one would have to talk about the end of the ideologies that oppose the dominant economic system.

[Reporter] What can Cuba do within this domination framework since Cuba is so small and alone?

[Castro] Well, almost all great ideas began with small and solitary things. If we go back to the origins of religions, all religions began in a corner of the world. A prophet—I

do not intend to characterize myself as a prophet—took the ideas of some, of a group of men, and the ideas later spread throughout the world. The important thing is not the size of the country that defends an idea, what matters is the size of the idea and the importance and objective value of the ideas you defend. In this case, we are defenders of ideas of social justice and international justice. We are very proud of defending those ideas. Of course, we must defend them wisely. We cannot be dogmatic. It is one thing to defend ideas with deep conviction, and another to be dogmatic.

We are not dogmatic, and we too need a dose of pragmatism in this world in which we are living. The problem is not only to defend an idea, but in attempting to make the ideas move forward. I do not believe that we are defending the ideas alone. If you speak about ideas of justice in this world, of ideas of development, if you protest against the looting our peoples are victim of, if you oppose the monstrosity of the foreign debt, if you do not understand how social problems and development of the countries can be solved while we are being plundered [we are not alone]. It is not a single country, but many countries. It is not a single man, or a group of men, or a party, but many men and people who are suffering the same problems and they are defending the same ideas. If you defend Latin American unity, you are defending a vital need for the survival of many people. There are more and more people who understand the need for that unity, at least in the economic order, and they will understand it better and better in the political order. If not, what could the Third World do? For example, what could Latin America do with its Balkanized life in order to negotiate and discuss with the economic superpowers, with the United States, Japan, Europe? What could each one of our countries do isolated? How could we, who are fragments of something that should be united and constitute a whole, discuss with those enormous superpowers alone, separately? Anyone can understand that as a tactic, this would be absurd. It would be madness.

This is why we talked about the need for unity to have a place in the world. There is already talk about the year 2000, of the third millenium. What role are our peoples going to play in that millenium? This is why I used a phrase, thinking of the almost 200 years that have gone by since the independence movement of our peoples began, since the times of Bolivar who with such a clear vision analyzed the problems of our countries, the destiny of our countries, the need for unity of our countries. I remembered Marti, who predicted all these problems almost 100 ago. I thought of what we could have been had we united. We could be a great economic power, a great economic community similar to the large economic powers existing in the world today.

This is why I painfully said at one point that we could have been everything and we are nothing. I said it with pain because I think about the weaknesses of our forces to face this battle that is vital for the present and, above all, the future generations. These are the kinds of ideas that we have been defending everywhere, and we have defended them in this summit. I believe it is the only way in which we can think of having a future. I believe that I am not the only one that thinks in this way. This idea is sound and has strength. I believe that there will be more and more awareness of this phenomena. I think that this summit is evidence of this.

[Reporter] I was asking you about this also because some have already begun the countdown for Cuba.

[Castro] Yes.

[Reporter] They say that the Berlin wall went down; the socialist world collapsed; the Soviet Union is falling apart; Marxism has been defeated; and Cuba is approaching a period of transition, a change, an end of the project it has been working on up to now.

[Castro] Well, I believe that the revolutionary movement, the progressive movement in general, is going through a difficult stage. The fact that all of that is being said is evidence of what I mentioned before, that ideology at this time is stronger and is more current than ever, only that it is a reactionary ideology. Socialism is still very new, very new. It just emerged in the world. Not in the modern sense, but the foundations of capitalism are thousands of years old. Indeed, adverse events have taken place in East Europe and the Soviet Union is going through great difficulties. But, have the causes that engendered revolutions and socialism disappeared from the world? On the contrary, I believe that those causes are more present now than ever. If you consider statistical figures, there are more hungry people in the world than ever, there are more sick and unemployed people and more poverty.

In our own Latin America, which is not one of the most backward regions, the figures on the levels of poverty are impressive, they are substantial. There are 4 billion people living in poverty and underdevelopment in the world. Where did underdevelopment come from? It came from colonialism, capitalism, from the exploitation and looting of our countries. Those causes are more present now than ever. Who can say that these problems have been solved? One has to have a triumphalistic attitude and be too optimistic to think that everything has been solved regarding progressive and socialist ideas.

Just like the phoenix, they will rise stronger than ever from the ashes we are covered with today. What has capitalism solved? It has not solved any problem. It has ravaged the world. It has left all this poverty. It has created life styles and consumption models that are incompatible with the realities. They have poisoned the water, the oceans; I mean the rivers, lakes, oceans, the earth. They have created the most incredible waste. I always cite an example: Imagine if each Chinese had a car or wanted to have a car, if each one of the 1.1 billion Chinese people or if each one of the some 800 million Indians wanted to have a car and this life style and that Africa did the same and that almost 450 million Latin Americans did the same. How long would oil last? How long would gas last? How long would natural resources

last? What would be left of the ozone layer? What would be left of the oxygen on the Earth? What would happen with the carbon dioxide?

What about all these phenomena that are changing the ecology of the world and are changing the Earth? They are making life more and more difficult on our planet. Is it that capitalism has given the world a life model, a society model? Should we not be thinking about more rational things such as education of the entire population, nutrition, health, decent housing, and a high cultural level? Has capitalism, with its blind laws, its selfishness as a principle, given us a model? Has it taught us a way out? Will the road of humankind be drawn by capitalism up to now?

One can talk about the crisis of socialism, but capitalism is in a worse crisis. It has no way out. It does not have solutions to the great problems of humankind, in every area, from human problems to social and ecological problems. Life cannot continue based on blind laws. Man should have the possibility of planning his own development, of planning his life, of using natural and human resources rationally and not going through this crazy rat race that has led us to nothing and will lead to nowhere.

Thus, I do not see why there is so much talk about predictions regarding socialism. I relate socialism to new ideas, advancement, progress, the ability of man to organize his life, design his society, and plan his future. Capitalism does not promise any of these things. I would come to the opposite conclusion, in spite of these setbacks the revolutionary movement has suffered, I would come to the conclusion that capitalism is going through an irreversible crisis and that it does not have a solution to the problems of humankind.

[Reporter] We noticed that the feeling now is that there is a need for open markets. We are told that we are going to make a society of opportunities, of freedom, of democracy. On the other hand, we see the masses in Czchekoslovakia, Yugoslavia, in these countries, in a euphoria of freedom.

[Castro] Well, that took place at a certain point because there was a lot of influence from the West. Do not forget that socialism developed in the most backward European countries. They were agricultural countries. Do not forget that it was circumstantial. This was not the case in Cuba. In Cuba, just as with the Mexican Revolution, the revolution was autochthonous. In Cuba, the revolution was a product of our own decisions, it was not circumstantial, nobody imposed it on us. It is a very different situation to that of all of those countries where, in addition, many different mistakes were made. There was also an ideological battle. The presence of a consumption society had a lot of influence. Many thought that they were going to live the next day like they live in Paris or London, even without working. They harbored many illusions. It is like the people who walk in the desert and from a distance believe they see lakes, rivers, and palm trees, and it turns out that they are only mirages.

From those societies they did not see the terrible part, the inequalities, the injustices, the lack of security, the alienating and alienated life, the crazy competition of some men against others, the jungle capitalism where the stronger one should prevail, and the stronger one does prevail, the injustice there is in capitalism, the inequality there is in capitalism, the existence of millionaires and beggars, the existence of people who have palaces, and of those who have to sleep under a bridge. Millions of people have to sleep under bridges in the United States. I can tell you that not a single person sleeps under a bridge in Cuba.

When winter arrives, millions of street people commit crimes in the United States so they will be taken to prison where they can keep warm and have something to eat. There are millions of vices of all kinds in the United States. All the problems with drugs, prostitution, and gambling are a result of capitalism. That does not exist in a truly socialist country. That does not exist in our country.

Why do we have to change a more just and organized society, a society that has the privilege of planning its future, for a chaotic and unequal society? What kind of freedom can one talk about when you think of the illiterate, the beggars, the unemployed, in the people who do not have health services, who do not have any kind of opportunities in life? What kind of democracy can one speak of when hundreds of millions and billions inherit these things as relatives pass to their heirs do, or as a throne is inherited? What kind of equality of opportunity can be spoken of when a person has nothing? Isolated cases of those who having been very poor at a certain time were able to become rich do not matter. These are isolated examples of Cinderellas that marry a prince.

I think of the story of my own father who was a son of very poor peasant Spaniards. At a certain time—he was hard working—he was able to employ other men and they were able to have.... [changes thought] There are so many more stories such as this one, of people who were very poor and were able to build some wealth. Those stories happen less and less. The opportunities are given to the important executives who studied in select schools and come from families who own shares of the large international companies or the large corporations. What are the opportunities that the son of the poor man, of the peasant, of the laborer has? They cannot be deceived with the song of the siren that he is going to have the opportunity to become a Rockefeller. The time of Rockefellers is over. The time when the banks and railroads began and turned men into great millionaires, that time is over.

There is no equality of opportunity. It is a lie. It is a total falsehood. In my own case, I remember the children of my age. I was the son of the landowner. I was the only

one who could go to school and reach sixth grade, the only one to get a high school diploma, the only one who was able to attend the university and acquire the minimum level of culture needed to play a certain role in the life of his country. None of those hundreds of children had the remote opportunity. They did not even reach the fifth grade. I have also lived the experience of someone who was able to study and play a role. If instead of being the son of the landowner, I had been the son of one of those peasants, and had not died of hunger or some of the frequent diseases that did not receive medical attention, I would have not been able to play any role in my country.

Therefore, I cannot believe in those fairy tales because my own life experience taught me what the realities of this world are. I believe that our society is much more just and much more democratic, not only in its contents, but also in its structure. Are they going to tell me that the great model of democracy is the United States, where less than half of the people vote, where many people have so little respect for voting that they prefer to go out to a restaurant or to the movies on the day of the elections? They elect the president with 25 percent of the votes. Nobody else has anything to do with what happens for a number of years. They elect a president who has more power than an emperor, who can even begin nuclear war without consulting with anyone. This reminds me of Rome, and a more powerful Rome than the historic one, and some emperors who have more power than those of the Roman emperors.

How can I deep down come to the conclusion that this is ideal for humankind? This is a model of a government system. Therefore, I cannot agree under any circumstances with that sense of triumph on those ideas because I am saying that the problems of the world need to be solved. The key question is, how are they going to be solved? We will see if capitalism and neoliberalism are the ones that are going to solve these problems. They are the cause of the disasters the world is suffering from.

[Reporter] Commander, I ask about all this because this kind of talk about capitalism and imperialism is hardly heard anymore. It seems that it is outdated because something else prevails in the world.

[Castro] The old system. This is what is in style at this time. It can only be in style for the moment, considering everything I explained before.

[Reporter] Is there not a countdown on Cuba?

[Castro] In any case, I think there is a countdown of the type that takes place before takeoffs because there is also countdown for spacecraft. Countdowns are not always bad. Many times they are good.

[Reporter] There is a lot of talk about.... [changes thought] Even in Cuba we have had the opportunity of talking with people.... [changes thought] You were talking about access to education. There are people in Cuba who now say: I already went to school. I am an engineer and now I want to see the United States. They want more opportunities.

[Castro] We do not ban them from seeing the United States. The United States is the one that bans them from seeing it. We have opened wide the possibilities. First, everyone who wants to emigrate can do so. Secondly, we have been making it easier and easier for all of those who want to visit the United States and spend some time with relatives to visit there and return to Cuba. They can go and come back. Tens and tens of thousands of people travel to the United States and return every year. We make it easier and easier. So, we do not prevent anyone from making those trips to acquire that knowledge and experience.

Of course, a revolution is a revolution and demands sacrifices. We are not Belgium, the Netherlands, or Switzerland. They are developed and super-developed countries. We are a Third World country. We need to work hard for our development. Cuba is not the only one with this situation. Millions of Mexicans, in this country that has oil, that has a certain level of industrial development, cross the border every year in spite of the wall. There is talk about the Berlin Wall and that it had to be torn down. Why is there no talk about tearing down that huge wall the United States has on the Mexican border? It has electric fences, patrols, and millions of things. It is said that a million Mexicans are arrested at the border and returned every year.

I ask myself, if there is talk about walls, why is this wall not eliminated? Why are all the Mexicans who want to visit their relatives or look for jobs in the United States not allowed to travel to the United States if they want to? Why are the U.S. borders not opened to Dominicans? Hundreds of thousands cross the Mona Passage and go to Puerto Rico and then to New York. A million Dominicans live in New York. We have a phenomenon of many people from Third World countries who emigrate. This happens in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This is not a situation that is exclusive to Cuba.

Cuba has been economically blocked by the United States for over 30 years. The United States has done everything possible to prevent our development. Now we are also enduring the economic consequences of the collapse of the East European socialist countries with which we had some trade and because of the objective difficulties of the Soviet Union. We are going through a special period. It is logical.... [changes thought] There were always people who wanted to travel to the United States because there always was and always will be people whose motivations are not patriotic, political, or revolutionary. They think about attaining better life styles and higher incomes. If income in a developed capitalist country is 15 or 20 times more than the income of a Third World country, those migration movements are logical. Many people travel.

Now, you tell my that there are some engineers who say: I am already an engineer. I know thousands of engineers who became engineers and devote their lives to the country, to work in the country, the development of the country. Dozens of thousands of scientists are placing us at the forefront in various fields of scientific research and technology. I also speak with thousands and dozens of thousands of people who are proud of their fatherland, their revolution, and are totally devoted to their work to take the country forward in the middle of these big challenges and difficulties. Over half a million Cubans have fulfilled internationalist missions—of one kind or another—in Third World countries. There is no country that is more generous, and benevolent and that expresses more solidarity than our people. I do not believe that there is another such example in the world.

I am truly proud and admire the virtues of our people. I see that this situation takes place at an incomparable higher rate in other countries. In reality, this is not exclusive of Cuba. Cuba is the country in which there is less brain theft. The best talents of Latin America have emigrated to Europe and the United States looking for research possibilities, better income, and better life styles. There has been a constant theft of talent. On the other hand, the best technical and scientific talents are in our country and are working for the country with great patriotism and revolutionary spirit.

[Reporter] But how much more sacrifice can Cuba make? Has the time not come to open some roads?

[Castro] Well, I think that all Third World countries need to make many sacrifices. We have been sacrificing for centuries. Africans were subjected to plundering for four centuries. Its population was subjected to kidnapping and was brought to this hemisphere as slaves. The Indian population of this hemisphere has been suffering marginalization and sacrifice for five centuries. Humankind has been suffering great sacrifices and always dreaming of a better world either in this life or the other one. Billions of people have had to be resigned and are resigned with the idea that there might be a better life than this one.

Now, for the first time, humankind has fostered hopes of truly just societies, of a true spirit of equality, fraternity, and freedom. These famous goals and slogans that spread around the world from the French Revolution have not been fulfilled anywhere. I ask myself, what is the freedom of the beggar compared to that of the millionaire? What is the equality between the beggar and the millionaire? What is the fraternity existing between the beggar and the millionaire? When I speak of a beggar I can also be referring to the unemployed, he who does not have a job, who does not have housing, who does not have schooling for himself and his children, who does not have land, who has nothing. There are hundreds of millions of such people in this hemisphere.

The Economic Commission for Latin America says that there are 183 million poor people. The congress held in Quito recently, at the end of last year, says there are 270 million poor people and 84 million of them are destitute. There is not a single destitute person in our country. We are not a country of rich people but there is not a single destitute, beggar, or barefoot child asking for charity in the streets. There is talk here about 270 million poor people, in this hemisphere, 62 percent of the population is poor. This does not mean that the rest are rich. There are middle stratas and 10 percent may have 50 percent of the gross income. Where is justice? How can those figures set as models?

I saw at the conference that many talked of the needs to redistribute wealth and the need of social justice. I was glad to hear it. But I thought I was hallucinating when I heard all that. Perhaps they were influenced by the Orozco paintings.

I hear that language is somewhat related to the events. What is the program and what is the way in which we are going to eliminate that category of poverty and destitution. They are realities that we are seeing everyday. You cannot see this in our country in spite of the fact that we are a Third World country. You will not find an illiterate and you will not find a man without a job. The person who does not have a job is given a subsidy in line with the austerity measures we have had to implement, because of the lack of raw material. We do not send anyone to the streets. We redistributed what we have. Even students who graduate from university get their jobs even if the factories do not need them. This is done so that they work next to a more experienced engineer so that he works. They form a reserve work force for the future.

So, these are our objectives, our ideals. I think they are much more just. I think there is more equality, more solidarity, more fraternity, more freedom. I ask myself if a capitalist society can speak on those terms.

[Reporter] Why, for example, within this framework, can those who have different views not be allowed to get organized? Why can political freedom not be allowed? Why are spaces not opened?

[Castro] Well, the problem is that forces have been polarized in our country; the ones who have favored Cuba and those who have favored the United States. We have endured the hostility for over 30 years. The war has gone on for over 30 years. There have been all kinds of war. Among them has been the brutal economic blockade that prevents us from even buying an aspirin in the United States. It is incredible. When there is talk about human rights, not a single word is said about the brutal violation of human rights of an entire country, that constitutes the U.S. economic blockade, to prevent its development. The revolution polarized the forces, the ones that were with it and the ones against it and together with the United States.

I say it frankly—I believe it is in line with the reality—that as long as the reality persists, we cannot give the

enemy any kind of opportunity for it to carry out its historic task of destroying the revolution.

[Reporter] Does that mean that dissidents will not have a space in Cuba?

[Castro] They will not have space if they are pro-Yankee dissidents. There are many people in Cuba who think differently and they are respected. There are a number of people. Now, the creation of all the conditions for the party of imperialism does not exist. We are not going to offer them either. I am characterized by the fact that I speak frankly and say what I think. We look for pluralism within our party. A good example is the nomination of candidates as area delegates. They constitute the foundation of the election of all the powers. The party is not the one to nominate. The area residents gathered in a meeting are the ones who make the nominations. This has been done since the times of Greece which, by the way, was not a democratic society because it was a society of owners and slaves. [sentence as heard] Slaves and other social classes had no rights. The dominating class met at the public square.

In our country, all citizens meet in their electoral area. They are the ones who nominate the candidates. They can nominate up to eight. It is not the party. They cannot nominate more than eight. We are not going to have 80, or less than two candidates in one voting area. In order to be elected they need to get the majority of votes plus one. Over 95 percent of the voters participate in our elections. Naturally, the United States is not going to talk about this and are not going to publicize how our society is. You know that there is a great media monopoly in the world. All this is ignored and wants to be ignored. The people and not the party are the ones who nominate in our country.

[Reporter] But is not a single party a very narrow framework for democracy?

[Castro] Well, it depends on what democracy. For revolutionary, socialist democracy, it has been a broad framework. The most self-sacrificing, most selfless people are in this party, those who have to be the first in everything, in voluntary work and internationalist missions. To be a party member is really to be deserving of the people's respect but also to make the greatest efforts, the greatest sacrifices. The most advanced, most self-sacrificing, most revolutionary people in the country are in the party. We believe that our party has promoted much greater participation by the people than there is anywhere else in the world. That is our view, our idea. Or is there only one form of democracy? I have already spoken to you about some of the characteristics of a capitalist democracy, which in my view can in no way be a model for democracy.

[Reporter] There are those .... [rephrases] [Chilean President] Patricio Aylwin said to us that the Latin American presidents have achieved legitimacy and now must attain effectiveness. In general the presidents talk very insistently that they have received their backing through elections, that it comes from the ballot box. You have seen how the press and the people constantly ask why there are no elections in Cuba.

[Castro] Well, why do they not know that there are elections in Cuba? Every two and a half years we hold elections. Every five years we elect the National Assembly and the Council of State. This is through an electoral method in which those who make the nominations are the citizens. So there is a broad base in this regard that no other country has. It is not the parties that make the nominations, or the party that makes the nominations, but rather the citizens make the nominations and elect those representatives who are the ones who make up the branches of government at the various levels.

[Reporter] In the case of the presidency, for example?

[Castro] They elect the National Assembly, which elects the Council of State. The Council of State elects its president. There is a collective government. What do I say? As president, I have much less power than any other president in Latin America. I cannot appoint ministers. I cannot appoint ambassadors; I never appoint ambassadors. The Council of State appoints them, and I participate as just one more in the Council of State in selecting a minister, selecting an ambassador, selecting the top government officials. If you analyze my constitutional powers, they are much less than those of any other president in Latin America. Power is much more shared.

If you ask me if I have authority, I can say that yes, I do have authority, moral authority, an authority that derives from history. If you ask if I have influence, yes, I have influence, but I cannot appoint a minister. In general, I often do not even propose anyone as a minister. The proposals come from various channels. They come from the Council of State, when a minister must be changed. Rather, I intervene when I am of the opinion that it would be good to change a minister for certain reasons, whatever, because more efficiency is needed, because a minister is tired. I may make a proposal, but I do not seek out a replacement for the minister. I can assure you of this. The powers that other Latin American presidents have are much greater than the ones I have. The type of authority or influence I have is different. It is of a moral nature.

A president like that of the United States has, shall I say, much greater personal power than I have, and many more powers. He has many more powers than a Roman emperor. He can declare a nuclear war, imagine! Is there anything more far-reaching than a nuclear war? The U.S. President has the power to begin one and to use nuclear weapons without consulting with Congress and without consulting with anyone. So if we get to the bottom of things, if we analyze things, we find a lot of false premises in the arguments that are used to judge Cuba.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, these are very widespread arguments.

[Castro] Well, what explanation would you give for that? We do not have the media assets that the empire has. The new Rome creates public opinion, not only ....[rephrases] Well, it creates public opinion throughout the world. Often the influence of these media is so great that the citizens of our countries do not even know who the founders of their independence were. In contrast, they know a lot about the people on the television programs that come from the United States, or the characters that come from the United States. You find that many children know little about the history of their country, but they know a lot about all that information, even entertainment, that comes canned from the United States to Latin America. Why do we not think about these phenomena which harm our culture and national identity so much? Why do we not think about these truths, that there is a monopoly of the media through the satellites, through tens of billions? [number reference not identified] Do you have the broadcasting power the U.S. media have? Could you guarantee through your network that your interview would be seen throughout Latin America and at the same time in Africa, Asia, and Europe?

I can talk for hours with you, but when you analyze the number of people who have had the opportunity to see this, it is one out of every thousand of those who have the opportunity to see and hear what the major U.S. television networks broadcast. Why do we forget about these facts?

[Reporter] But in this world, which is so open, is it possible to maintain a closed process?

[Castro] What is meant by a closed process?

[Reporter] That is....

[Castro, interrupting] Do we have to go over to capitalism in any case? You can ask me whether in this world, which is so capitalist, one can maintain the ideals of socialism in one country, in several countries. I say that it is our most basic duty, since we are men of principles, men of convictions. We must fight to our last breath to defend these ideas. I do not think history will condemn us for this, since the world today is so unjust that it will not be able to prevail forever, since it is so unequal and so inhuman. Some day, even if we are crushed—because many of the greatest ideas began with martyrdom—even if we have to be martyrs to these ideas, we would not lose anything. To the contrary; we would be nourishing with our sacrifice and our blood the victory of these ideas and principles in the future.

[Reporter] I have also asked you this because there are many people who think that the obstacle to Cuba's integration into Latin America is the continuation of the socialist system.

[Castro] I do not think so, because Cuba is precisely the one that is in the best position to integrate itself, economically as well as politically. Of course, one must seek a means of adapting, of joining together. As [Mexican President] Salinas de Gortari said, unity does not mean uniformity. We cannot conceive of a integrated and unified Latin America that is uniform. We can use our imagination, our creative spirit, to insert our economy into the Latin American economy. We are very open in this regard, and as we proposed at the conference, we are willing to give preferential treatment to Latin American capital that is invested in Cuba. We have to find practical ways to bring about this integration. What is basically needed for this is the will. We are an absolutely independent country. We can do whatever is thought necessary to achieve economic integration and then the political integration. Latin America has begun to take the first steps in that direction.

We are willing to integrate ourselves into it. We are willing to get along. But, well, has anyone put it as a condition that Mexico renounce its state ownership of oil in order to be integrated? Or that Venezuela renounce its state ownership of oil? No one has demanded this. Many Latin American governments have control over their fundamental riches. They have opened up, privatized, with other kinds of enterprises. Some have gone so far as to privatize streets and parks. We would say that that is going too far, but there are mixed economies within the Latin American countries themselves. Why can there not be policies of mixed economies between the Latin American countries, some with a greater share for state ownership and others with a lesser share for state ownership?

So these are subjects that should be studied, gone into in depth, but my private conviction is that we are in a better position for economic integration, and even for political integration, than any other country. I have said that we are not very jingoist. If one day we have to renounce our flag, which we love so much, we will renounce it if we must in the service of the political integration and unity of Latin America. For us this is a very important value. The same is true if one day they want to organize a just world state, not a world under the baton and the domination of a superpower that wants to establish order. If the world progressed so much that it began universal economic and political integration, we would also renounce our flag because we are internationalists. We are not jingoists. We are not narrow nationalists. We are patriots; we love our nation. We respect and uphold our national values, but our philosophy is basically that of internationalism. I think we are much better prepared than anyone for integration.

[Reporter] Lastly, Mr. President, there have been two days of intensive work in Guadalajara. You have talked with many presidents. You have seen the people in the streets. We would like to know what impression Fidel Castro is taking away from this meeting. Yesterday, President Salinas said that the bonfire of integration had been lit.

[Castro] He said that. It was a very good metaphor. Well, really it was not two days, it was three days of work—two there and the previous ones. There were many meetings.

I am taking away a very good impression from the meeting. I would say that the meeting was historic by the very fact that it was held. Even if we had sat down together only to have coffee, it would have been historic. But at the meeting we had dialogue, we talked, we discussed interesting subjects. There were many capable people at that meeting, and many very interesting things were said.

We should not expect miracles from the meeting, but we have taken a gigantic step. We had the opportunity of exchanging contacts with many people. I think a process of getting to know each other occurred, of exchanging information, and of rapprochement among the Latin American countries. With respect to organization, it was excellent. Mexico has shown that it has great organizational ability to hold a difficult event like this one.

We were treated excellently. The hospitality could not have been greater. I will never forget the care and affection we received from everyone, from the workers, and very especially from all the people in Guadalajara. So I feel once more in debt to Mexico. I feel one more reason to be eternally grateful to this great nation and these great people.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mandela To Stop in Havana En Route to Jamaica

FL2407180791 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa's African National Congress [ANC], will arrive in Cuba on a friendly visit tomorrow morning. The people of Havana will give him an enthusiastic welcome at the airport on behalf of our entire country. The ANC struggles against apartheid for a united, democratic, and nonracist Africa.

During his stay in our country, the ANC president will attend the celebrations marking the 38th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack.

Mandela is accompanied by his wife Winnie, who is also member of the ANC's National Executive Committee; Thomas (Ancobe), treasurer; and other members.

Greeted by Castro

FL2407175491 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Last night, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress [ANC], stopped over at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana en route to Jamaica where he will remain until tomorrow. At the Havana airport runway, the ANC leader was greeted by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, and other Cuban state and government leaders.

With his visit to Jamaica, Mandela begins a Latin American tour which will also include Venezuela, Mexico, and Brazil.

Ortega Arrives To Attend Moncada Ceremonies

FL2507114991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra arrived in our country to attend the ceremonies marking the 38th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack. Upon his arrival at the Jose Marti International Airport, Daniel Ortega sent a message of greetings to all Cubans.

[Begin Ortega recording] We feel as if we were one of the Cuban people. For that reason we are here to participate in another anniversary of the Moncada attack and in this manner ratify our solidarity with the Cuban people, their party, and Fidel. [end recording]

Ross Chairs ANIR Evaluation Meeting

FL2507014191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2319 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Report by Gavino Manguela on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] A thorough analysis was made today of the work carried out by the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts [ANIR] since its third congress was held two months ago. The meeting was chaired by Pedro Ross, the secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation and an alternate Politburo member. The meeting evaluated compliance with the agreements and stressed that the innovators and efficiency experts still meet obstacles in carrying out their work.

Of special significance are the problems that occur in the Ministry of Agriculture in recycling filing tools and the inertia that is seen in the work prior to manufacturing belts in the country, including those for sugarcane combines. One point of great interest was the approval of the proposal to select the 1,000 most outstanding innovators in the country in order to keep an exact list of them, and thus easily send them to resolve any difficulty whenever the situation requires this. Pedro Ross spoke about this important point.

[Begin Ross recording] This is an opportunity to have a register in the country of this technical corps, which is so valuable in resolving any problem, or handling any problem, in places where the country needs to handle problems, now in the special period, in these [word indistinct] that we have. But it is also a way of giving incentives to these people, because being in the register of the 1,000 best in the country is an incentive. This also means having a list when it comes to giving real incentives. Also [words indistinct] these good comrades. The list [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Escalona Says Combative Spirit in Difficulty

FL2407163191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1047 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has praised the effort made by the people of Granma Province in facing the limitations brought by the special period. He also stated that the necessary combative spirit of revolutionaries is present in the province under difficult conditions. He added that this is the only way to get ahead.

The president of the Cuban parliament visited various centers of local food, nonfood, and construction material enterprises; projects under construction; and gastronomic units in Bayamo, Manzanillo, Campechuela, and Guisa.

New Computer System Installed for News Programs

FL2507004691 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] For the first time, the National Television News Program [NTV] now has a computerized system for preparing the news and consulting the reports broadcast by all our news services. At the request of top ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television] officials, specialists at the Softel Enterprise of the Copextel Complex began work nine months ago on designing and programming the system. Today it is ready to be used by reporters. [passage indistinct]

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] but taking into account three fundamental modes. That is, this reflects the work on the news program from the draft script to the final version of the news items for broadcast. This is the first time that we have had a system in which the editor can analyze the news items, edit them, and even observe them and transmit them to other programs from the program itself. [end recording]

* Rumors Regarding 'Zero Option' Discussed

91CA0182A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 31 May 91 p 24

[Commentary by Luis Sexto]

[Text] Someone said that 60 years ago Cubans had three favorite pastimes, and they all involved a ball. There were baseball, numbers, and rumors. In Cuba people's ways of entertaining themselves have generally changed for the better. The passion for baseball is now universal. Those who liked taking chances on the little ball in old fashioned numbers games fled through the hatch of emigration, and rumors... Unfortunately, there are still a few people around who are addicted to the bouncing ball of rumor.

Rumors are an integral part of life in Cuba. So-called Spanish tattling—and I mean no offense to the white forebears of our mestizo culture—appears to be their most distant offspring. These fabrications ricochet from tongue to tongue, and nobody stops to consider whether the resulting gossip is true or not.

On occasion—almost always when the nation was struggling for independence or battling some tyranny—rumors became an art form people used to defend themselves. Gossip could round out a baseless claim or half-truth and give grounds for hope in the midst of widespread despair.

But, basically, rumors have served as a daily pastime for gossips. There are neighborhood rumors—someone is cheating on her mate; precinct rumors—so-and-so died; office rumors—the boss is about to be replaced. In times of struggle and uncertainty, rumors take on other traits, and, as we have seen, the results can be either a help or a hindrance to change. According to a Yoruba tale—Writer Tato Quninonez can correct me if I get it wrong.—the tongue can do great good or great harm. It can raise up, and it can strike down. It all depends on who and what the target is.

Rumors abound in today's Cuba, and this is highly detrimental. None is intended as encouragement. They all tend to sow despair and resignation. They aggravate the unease that is the natural result of the nation's material plight.

The other evening a neighbor knocked at my door. She was upset, and she asked: "Is it true that the Zero Option goes into effect on the first of June?" I smiled and answered with another question. "What does the Zero Option mean to you?" "They say there will be soup kitchens at the Committees for Defense of the Revolution [CDR's], they say the buses will stop running, they say..."

I pointed out that I understood the Zero Option had to do with the moment when Cuba used up its last drop of fuel. Given the direction of events worldwide, this was a possibility, and the Party and the government were most certainly studying formulas for confronting such a situation. But you will not find out about the start of such a period—the culminating phase of the special period—through a remark at the store or bus stop. Do you think car owners would have received their gas ration for the month if the Zero Option was to take effect in June?

I learned in social psychology that in the absence of timely information and news, rumors fill the vacuum. I intend no offense—and I blame myself as well as others—when I say that the indirect efforts of our press to scotch rumors are sometimes less than agile. As individual revolutionaries working at the personal level, we are no more adroit. I disclose no secret upon saying that some officials are reluctant to make information public if they think giving it to the press will harm the Revolution.

And there are times when this is a reasonable attitude. I am not trying to justify the kind of obstinacy so fiercely condemned by the Party and reporters. However, Cuba cannot now behave as if it were on display in a glass

showcase. The United States is on the lookout. It pursues and exerts pressure upon any Cuban effort to gain economic independence. And there are things—as Marti said—that can only be achieved if they are kept under wraps. Marti himself disguised his revolutionary activity. He tricked the enemy without, of course, tricking the people who believed in him.

Discretion in some economic and political matters may be strategically necessary, but I am certain no one has any doubts about whom to trust in the long run. The Revolution is profoundly honest and truthful. We will all learn in due time, and through official channels, what we will have to eat in the future, what we will have to wear, and how we will be able to travel. If this were not so, credibility would suffer.

Rumors are a Trojan horse used by Cuba's enemies on a daily basis from without and from within. If we pay attention to our gut feelings, we will realize this is so.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Camwork Seeks Cooperation With Other Media

FL2207225091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 22, CANA—The Caribbean Association of Media Workers (Camwork) said Monday it planned to seek the closest possible forms of cooperation with other media and telecommunications bodies in the region and the Caricom secretariat in the interest of its members, the journalism profession, and the Caribbean region.

The new initiative, announced in a press statement, is the result of decisions taken over the weekend at the fifth general meeting of Camwork in St. Lucia. Camwork groups national media organisations in several Caribbean countries.

The statement said the St. Lucia meeting considered deep concerns expressed by representatives of some Camwork affiliates over new patterns of ownership of regional media and the implications of current "cost-cutting exercises" by some media enterprises as a consequence of the economic downturn in the region.

The meeting, attended by delegates and observers from various Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries, also urged national and regional advertising agencies to be "more forthcoming" in supporting radio and television programmes that enhance greater awareness of the history and culture of the peoples of the Caribbean and foster "the spirit of Caribbean unity and oneness."

The "enlightened cooperation" of the region's advertising community was recognised by the meeting as being "essential in current efforts by the region's media systems and the governments of the Caribbean Community to arrest the negative features of foreign radio and television programmes," the statement said.

Camwork said it was also urging Caricom governments and the major subscribers of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) to consider how best they could be more "effectively supportive" of the 15-year-old indigenous news service. The St. Lucia meeting also approved a set of proposals for a "strategy document" that would guide Camwork's inputs in a working group being established by the Caricom secretariat to "study and make recommendations on policies dealing with regional communications".

In keeping with a suggestion from the Caricom Secretary General Roderick Rainford for Camwork's cooperation, the general meeting identified its reelected president, Rickey Singh, to be its representative when the working group begins to function. The decision of the recent 12th Caricom summit to establish a standing committee of ministers responsible for information was welcomed by the Camwork general meeting.

The meeting, hosted by Camwork's local affiliate, [words indistinct] elected the following new executives for the next two years: president, Rickey Singh (reelected); first vice-president and second vice-president, Earl Bousquet and Bertram Niles, respectively (reelected); Patrick Harley, new general secretary (outgoing General Secretary Claire Forrester did not seek re-election); and Andy Johnson as the new assistant general secretary. The new committee members are Debbie Ransome and Kellawan Lall.

The affiliates of Camwork are: Press Association of Jamaica, Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados Association of Journalists, Union of Guyanese Journalists, St. Lucia Media Workers Association, St. Vincent Association of Journalists, Dominica Association of Media Workers, and the Surinamese Association of Journalists.

Belize, Mexico Issue Cooperation Communique

FL2207233491 Bridgetown CANA in English 2151 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, July 22, CANA—A two-day meeting of Belizean and Mexican parliamentarians has ended with a joint communique calling for more cooperation in trade, air navigation, health, and the environment.

The fifth inter-parliamentary meeting was attended by 13 members of the Belize House of Representatives, including nine from the ruling People's United Party and four from the opposition United Democratic Party, and a 14-member Mexican delegation.

The 18-point communique, issued late Friday night, said the meeting was carried out in "an atmosphere of cordiality and frankness," and said more bi-lateral cooperation was needed against a background of the formation of new regional economic blocks. Specifically, the communique said it was necessary to make more dynamic the flow of trade between the two nations, with mutual support in customs, financing, and investment.

The delegations proposed that both countries "explore the possibilities of establishing a free trade agreement having regard to existing commitments with other international bodies." They called for a broad agreement on air navigation to allow for increased tourism, and cultural and trade exchanges. The communique also asked for the implementation of a joint vaccination programme to prevent the spread of cholera.

Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of fostering a Belize-Mexico-Guatemala border commision to protect the bio-sphere, with a view to the eventual establishment of a tri-national peace park.

The leader of the Mexican delegation Senator Joaquin Gonzalez Castro said it had been a very fruitful meeting. Earlier, Prime Minister George Price welcomed the Mexican delegation. He talked of an important agreement already signed with Mexico on drug trafficking, a commission to protect land and sea bounderies, and harmonisation of customs and immigration.

Dominican Republic

Armed Forces, Police Chiefs View Strike Plans

FL2407172391 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] The secretary of the Armed Forces met this morning with the chief of the National Police at police headquarters. Lieutenant General Hector Garcia Tejada arrived at police headquarters at 0900 and immediately went up to the office of Major General Ramon Alsides Rodriguez Arias.

The commander of the Armed Forces described his visit to police headquarters as a courtesy call.

Sources speculate that the two high officials exchanged information concerning the scheduled strike called for 29 July.

Detained Haitians Riot, Demand Repatriation

FL2307195191 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1623 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday, a serious incident took place at the Asilo Pastor Farm in Santiago de los Caballeros when dozens of Haitians confined in this facility demanded speedy repatriation to Haiti. The disturbance took place when over 100 Haitians started a protest over alleged delays in the repatriation process. The violence spread to all buildings and rooms of this facility where wayward girls are interned. The Haitians set fire to mattresses, destroyed furniture, and screamed insults until the police arrived and established control.

The damage caused by the Haitians' behavior was criticized yesterday in Santiago. Haitians are confined in this facility while in transit to Dajabon where they are turned over to Haitian authorities. This is also being done in the southern border areas of Jimani and Malpasse. According to police reports, no deaths or injuries resulted from the incident at the Asilo Pastor Farm.

Haiti

Ministry Announces IMF Negotiations To Continue

FL2207204391 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The Haitian Government has requested a standby contract from the IMF as support for its economic program. The terms of this agreement are still being discussed by Haitian financial authorities and IMF representatives. A statement from the Ministry of Finance explains that during the meeting of the consulting group in Paris, the IMF representative announced to Haiti's prospective sponsors that considerable progress had been made in negotiations. The ministry memorandum also announces that continued negotiations with the IMF will soon resume in Haiti. It further clarifies that no agreements had been signed at the Paris meeting, and that the Haitian Government had only presented its macroeconomic policy and public investment program at that time.

Groups Denounce Macoute Antigovernment Plot

FL2207220091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Members of several organizations in Marchand, also known as Dessalines, denounce well-known macoutes for purchasing several hundred machetes and gallons of gasoline, and distributing them to the miserable peasants on Marchand Mountain in Kalaplas to encourage their participation in the now failed destabilization plot of 12 July, and for inciting them to decapitate the organization leaders and Aristide partisans and to burn their houses.

The militants also accuse Electricity of Haiti operators in Marchand of cutting the current at 2100 on the evening on 12 July. The Marchand organizations' general assembly had set up vigilance brigades on that date against the forces of darkness by which macoutes attempt to supplant Haiti's seeds of democracy.

Reportage on Repatriation of Haitians

Bahamian Consul Comments

FL2307202591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Citing Joseph Etienne, the Haitian consul in Nassau, the newspaper LE MATIN reported over the weekend that Haitians living illegally in the Bahamas will be returned. According to Etienne, this is not a case of deportation as in the Dominican Republic, but rather a simple repatriation of Haitians who are in prison.

These repatriations will follow the expiration of an agreement, ratified between Haiti and the Bahamas in 1987. According to Consul Etienne, fresh negotiations are being conducted, however, for a new agreement.

Balaguer Expells Over 300

FL2207220191 Port-[illegible] Prince Radio Antilles International in Fren[illegible] 1200 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Over 300 Haitians expelled by the Balaguer government arrived over the weekend. Some of them joined their families at once, but others had to be put up at the Bon Repos reception center.

According to Haitian Consul General Wilson Desir in New York, 35 Rockland County deputies last week condemned the Balaguer government's arbitrary, unilateral decisions against Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. Desir said that steps have also been taken by human rights organizations. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

ANC President Mandela Pays One-Day Visit

Arrives From Spain

FL2407175991 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1700 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Nelson Mandela and his wife Winnie arrived in Jamaica this morning on board on a Cubana aircraft from Spain. They will spend 24 hours there before leaving for Cuba. During his visit Mr. Mandela will address a joint session of Parliament, attend a mass rally and cultural show, and pay tribute to fallen Jamaican heros. [Bahamas] Prime Minister Pindling and other Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] heads are expected to meet Mr. Mandela this afternoon. Our correspondent is in Jamaica and sent this report.

[Begin correspondent recording] When Nelson Mandela emerged from the Cubana aircraft the hundreds who had assembled at the Norman Manley Airport exploded with a spontaneous round of applause welcoming this international symbol of patience and perseverance. The leader of the African National Congress, his wife Winnie at his side, strode briskly down the ramp where he was met by Jamaican Prime Minister The Honorable Michael Manley. His first words were: What an honor and pleasure to be able to meet you.

As the large press corps here to cover this historic visit veered down on the Mandelas, Customs authorities rapidly attempted to move the anxious media representatives, but to no avail. Unperturbed, Mr. and Mrs. Mandela graciously met the official party, which included the leader of the opposition Mr. Edward Seaga. Then a large motorcade weaved through the streets from the airport into the surrounding communities and into New Kingston and the Wyndom Hotel.

Hundreds had already gathered at the hotel when the Mandelas arrived, Mr. Mandela with Prime Minister Manley, and Mrs. Mandela with the Honorable Portia Simpson, administrator in the Manley administration. Security could not restrain the crowd who attempted to do all that was humanly possible to touch the Mandelas. Nelson Mandela appeared not to be bothered. He maintained a broad smile and occasionally raised his internationally recognized clenched fist, which repeatedly sparked emotive reaction.

To say the Mandela's 24 hour visit to Jamaica is a great event is certainly an understatement. As we observed today, many believe that Nelson Mandela is the greatest human being alive. His languishing in prison for 27 years, his unbelievable strength, his humility and determination are characteristics that many find hard to believe. Respect for the Mandelas transcends political, social, and cultural boundaries. And as Jamaicans poured out into the streets this morning, Rastafarian colors everywhere, one journalist compared the motorcade to the motorcade and procession on the occasion of the death of Bob Marley a decade ago, another great leader of the African diaspora who too spoke out for African liberation. [end recording]

Pleads for Sanctions

FL2507014091 Bridgetown CANA in English 0057 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 24, CANA—African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela declared apartheid alive in South Africa when he addressed a joint sitting of Jamaica's House of Representatives and Senate on Wednesday.

"Apartheid may be wounded but its heart has not yet stopped beating," Mandela said as he pleaded for continued sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

Mandela, on a one-day official visit at the start of a Latin American tour, said that change in South Africa would only become truly profound and irreversible when there was one man-one vote, regardless of colour, race, creed, or sex.

"At that point and only at that point will it be appropriate to lift sanctions," he declared. The United States and Britain have moved to lift economic sanctions against South Africa in light of moves by President F.W. De Klerk to officially abolish apartheid. The ANC President said there was no better place from which to send out that message to the four corners of the Earth than a country which was among the first to impose sanctions against apartheid. Jamaica imposed sanctions against Pretoria in 1959 while the island was still a British colony.

Earlier, Mandela, in a speech after accepting an honorary degree at the University of the West Indies [UWI], also said giving all the credit to South African President F.W.

De Klerk for the peace process is an "insult (that) has been added to the injury" of blacks.

"We must ensure that the equal opportunies we have fought for is not neutralised by the perpetuation of existing inequalities created by apartheid," he said.

At the joint House sitting, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley moved a resolution expressing solidarity and support for the ANC and the people of South Africa who are committed to the creation of a united, democratic South Africa in which human rights, economic and social justice are guaranteed for all citizens. Manley's motion, seconded by opposition leader Edward Seaga, called upon all other nations to maintain economic sanctions until the process towards a united and democratic South Africa is irreversible.

Manley said although Jamaica did not have much to offer by way of economic support, the island could contribute much in the way of political organisation, constitutional law, and professional training as there was an abundance of human skills in the country. He offered a hand of partnership in building a free South Africa. For his part, Seaga made specific reference to action Jamaica had taken since imposing trade sanctions in 1959, through support for the Gleneagles Agreement in 1977, which outlawed sporting contact with South Africa, and other expressions of support in international fora for continued sanctions.

"Every prime minister of Jamaica has in his own time and own way struck a blow against racial intolerance and the abhorrent system of apartheid," Seaga said.

In accepting the honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the UWI, Mandela said it was not for himself, but on behalf of the ANC.

Mandela had a private lunch meeting with six Caribbean heads of government who were invited here to meet him. The meeting was to update them on latest developments in South Africa. Mandela and his wife Winnie will leave here for Cuba on Thursday after a meeting with the press.

Calls for Interim Government

MB2507061091 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Nelson Mandela is now demanding the establishment of an interim government in the wake of the Inkathagate secret funding scandal.

Addressing a joint sitting of the Jamaican Parliament, Mandela said the ANC [African National Congress] demands the creation of an interim government of national unity that enjoys the confidence of all South African people. His speech marks a hardening of ANC demands following the cash for Inkatha controversy.

Mandela told the Jamaican parliamentarians that a transitional government should preside over negotiations. He said the transition should end with the election of a constituent assembly elected by universal adult suffrage to write a new constitution.

Mandela said the scandal has cast serious doubt on the commitment of the South African Government. He said while the government talks peace it's waging war against those seeking a peaceful settlement in South Africa.

Police Fire Into Crowd, 1 Dead

FL2507145691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1359 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 25, CANA--A man was shot dead by police at a rally here Wednesday night in honour of African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Eyewitnesses said police fired in a crowd that was pelting stones and bottles after a man was accosted for scaling a fence to get onto the stadium field where pop music bands were set up to perform.

The man who is so far unidentified, was killed and two other persons injured and taken to hospital.

The incident occurred just after Mandela and his wife Winnie arrived at the National Stadium during a speech by Jamaica's information minister, Dr Paul Robertson.

Top level investigations were ordered by the Police High Command.

The show which featured Third World Band, Jimmy Cliff, Rita Marley and other well known stars went on without further incident.

The Mandelas were leaving here on Thursday after a one day official visit to launch a two-week Caribbean and Latin American tour.

Government Signs Credit Agreement With Canada

PA2407013491 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] The governments of Mexico and Canada have signed an agreement on guarantees and a credit line for Mexican Petroleum. The announcement was made by the Office of the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat.

Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Pedro Aspe and Mr. Robert Richardson, executive president of Export Development Corporation—Canada's official credit organization—have signed a guarantee agreement and a $500 million credit line for Mexican Petroleum.

A third agreement establishes the renewal and expansion of credit lines for several Mexican banks and the Federal Electricity Commission for a total of $10 million.

Pedro Aspe said the agreements will permit increased financing of imports from Canada. He spoke of the importance of these agreements within the framework of the Free Trade Treaty.

[Begin Aspe recording] These agreements have particular importance in this significant phase for the North American region because trilateral talks between Canada, the United States, and our country are under way to sign a free trade treaty.

Changes have been made at the public sector level. Now it is up to businessmen from the two countries to increase trade. The credit lines exist. [end recording]

Francisco Rojas, general director of Mexican Petroleum, said that Mexico's oil export goal is 1.4 million barrels per day. He said that because of this Mexico must have a $20 billion investment program for the next five years.

[Begin Rojas recording] We believe that Mexican Petroleum will require $8 billion in the next few years to develop our industry. [end recording]

He said the agreement is very important because it will provide support for Mexican Petroleum's expansion program. He said that Canada has a well-developed industry that can complement that of Mexico.

Humberto Soto, general director of the Foreign Trade National Bank, has stated that in 1990 Mexico imported $7 billion in capital assets and this year will import $10 billion worth.

Canadian Ambassador Meets Business Executives

PA2407164591 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. David Winfield, Canadian ambassador to Mexico, said that during the current decade, trilateral free trade negotiations should be based on four objectives:

One: a group of customs regulations that guarantees free access to trade between the three countries. Two: non-discriminatory trade practices, services and investors. Three: copyright protection measures. Four: adequate and efficient procedures for solving disputes.

[Begin Winfield recording] We want clear and common trade regulations. An equal playground to all who want to play with these rules. [end recording]

During his speech before the Mexico Marketing and Salesmem Executives Association, Mr. Winfield said that the foundation for better access of Canadian goods had been established in Mexico. He also spoke about the agreement between the United States and Canada, adding that the biggest bilateral exchange was accomplished in 1990 with a trade exchange valued at $20.3 billion.

However, he also said that the objective is not to impose this type of treaty on Mexico, but to bring about an agreement advantageous to the three countries, and where exchanged goods could surpass $23.5 billion.

Mr. Winfield added that Canada is interested in a positive conclusion to the GATT talks in Uruguay. Should this not be the case, the trilateral free trade pact would become even more important.

El Salvador

FMLN Political Commission To Emerge Publicly

PA2507033291 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 23 Jul 91 p 4

["Special report for DIARIO LATINO" by Oscar Vigil]

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Jul—Gerson Martinez, one of the five members of the recently created Political Committee of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrilla organization, said today that the FMLN is preparing to emerge as a political force in the country, which could happen even before the signing of a cease-fire with President Alfredo Cristiani's government.

He added that such a decision will be based on an evaluation of whether the FMLN's public emergence will favor the peace process in the country and if it does not depend on the government agreeing with its participation.

"Our political participation is a legitimate right; it is not an opportunity given to us by the government, but one we have taken," he stressed.

Martinez said that, based on a decision by the FMLN leadership, during the past few months there has been a separation within the rebel cadres between those who are strictly engaged in military activities and those who work in the political field.

Within that context, he said, it has been fully established that in El Salvador the "FMLN Joint Command" is the highest military leadership body, while the "FMLN Political Committee" was created to lead the organization's political activities in the country.

The Political Committee, he added, is made up of one representative from the directorate of the five organizations comprising the FMLN. He stressed that there is great unity among the five members of the committee.

He noted that the Political Committee "is consolidating the political base accumulated through the years with the idea of making a political incursion. We are prepared and quite capable of matching our strength with the rightists through a democratic process that is still nonexistent and that we must build. [no closing quotation marks, as published]

Martinez said that the decision to create that committee was discussed and approved by the FMLN in mid-January of this year and that it was actually formed and began functioning in the latter part of May and beginning of June.

By emerging in public, the Political Committee will contribute to creating harmony among the various sectors in the country, which in turn will benefit the peace process.

Gerson Martinez, who represents the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), which is one of the FMLN 's strongest organizations, has been the first so far to make any public statement. However, he said that the other four members [of the Political Committee] will gradually come out in the next few days.

"We are eluding the regime's mechanisms of repression and persecution," Martinez said, noting that members of the Political Committee have been meeting periodically and are mobilizing throughout the nation to unify their forces.

Martinez said that to date the members of the Political Committee have met with leaders of political parties and with business, professional, labor, social, and religious leaders.

However, he noted that it has not been possible to meet with leaders of the ruling party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), with whom they have only exchanged views within the framework of the meetings between the FMLN and the interpartisan commission, in which some commission members have participated.

Gerson Martinez stressed the FMLN's right to participate in Salvadoran politics, noting that "the FMLN has always been a political-military organization, a front-line party that has operated clandestinely and that must now emerge."

"We are not going to incorporate ourselves into the country because we have never been outside the country; we are going to emerge in public," he stressed.

In that regard, he did not hesitate to say that the FMLN's current strategy is to find a political solution to the conflict. Therefore, he said he hopes that "the government will adopt a civilized attitude" regarding the political activities of the new committee.

Martinez, a young but veteran Salvadoran guerrilla who is approximately 30 years old, claims that he has been an FPL member since its creation, when he was only 13 years old.

"I have dedicated my life to fight for my country and today I am as optimistic as the first day," he said when expressing his opinion regarding the crucial moments Salvadoran society is facing.

According to Martinez, the negotiation process is advancing as expected, at a normal and logical pace in accordance with the correlation of political and military forces currently existing in the country. In that regard, he stressed that "this is the ideal moment to sign a peace agreement because there is a situation of military balance, which could result in peace with equilibrium."

That would be an acceptable result for the FMLN because "our goal is to obtain a social-political victory for our people, a partial victory," that will precede a strictly political struggle, he said.

However, the FMLN's public appearance at this time will probably generate opposition within the official spheres, given that the government as well as the Armed

Forces have demanded that the FMLN surrender its weapons as a necessary condition before they can take part in political activities.

Martinez noted that the members of the Political Committee have been carrying out nonmilitary activities in the country. However, he emphatically reiterated their support for the armed struggle conducted by the FMLN's National Army for Democracy (END).

"All the members of the Political Committee and its national structures fully support the END's armed struggle, and, although we do not participate in it or have any military rank, we believe that it must continue until an overall agreement is reached at the negotiating table," he stressed.

Asked if that support was not contrary to the new committee's strictly political nature, Martinez replied that asking them not to support the END's armed struggle would be equivalent to asking Arena not to support the Armed Forces' actions.

The FMLN's public emergence as a strictly political organization in the country seems to be imminent. The debate is now centered on when this will happen.

According to the government, it must happen once the FMLN disappears as a military force. However, the rebels have said that it will happen when it is believed that its emergence can substantially contribute to the peace process in the country.

Honduras

Armed Forces Accused in Hernandez Murder

PA2307173291 Paris AFP in Spanish 0352 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Jul (AFP)—The Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee (CODEH) and the Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras (COFADEH) have accused members of the Armed Forces in the murder of Marco Tulio Hernandez, a member of those organizations who was killed today in the northern city of San Pedro Sula.

Leaders of the two committees said in a press conference in the capital that "two soldiers in civilian clothing" shot Hernandez in the back when he got off a bus coming from the neighboring city of La Lima.

Hernandez' mother, Liduvina Hernandez, the president of COFADEH, said in a message to President Rafael Callejas and Armed Forces chief General Luis Alonso Discua that "despite the two wounds that you have inflicted on me, I will not rest until justice is done."

Another of Liduvina's sons, Enrique, disappeared in 1982 along the Nicaraguan border after he had crossed into Honduras.

According to the COFADEH leader, it does not matter "if my blood is shed out of necessity."

For his part, CODEH Vice President Anibal Puerto said "a political murder has been committed," even as President Callejas has announced a process of "national concerted effort" and a general amnesty that could benefit several military personnel accused of violating human rights.

Because he had received death threats, Marco Tulio Hernandez left the country for a year. He established himself in Italy, from where he returned a month ago to promote the establishment here of an office of the International Association Against Torture, based in New York, of which he is a member.

The CODEH and COFADEH, which submitted reports on the case to international human rights organizations immediately, said that the police have already arrested one of the murderers, identified as Julio Guardado.

Nicaragua

Officials Address FSLN Congress 22 Jul

Lacayo Speaks

PA2407223391 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0213 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Speech by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo at the closing ceremony of the First Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Congress at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Dear Nicaraguans, delegates to the first FSLN National Congress, members of the board of director of this congress, new FSLN National Directorate members, new FSLN National Assembly members, special guests to this event, friends of the government and the Army, Nicaraguans:

For the past months and ever since we learned in the government that the FSLN was going to hold its first congress—the Carlos Nunez Tellez Congress—we started to follow all the preparations for this event closely and with interest. We knew that this first FSLN Congress would be of great importance to life in our nation because it was the first time in history that this important party would hold such a meeting, because the congress would be held in a new phase—today, when this party is in the opposition—and because its deliberations and conclusions would have a strong impact on Nicaragua's future political, economic, and social life.

At the close of the working sessions and of this Congress today, we are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to maintain a firm and definite peace, which is necessary to ensure that we never return to an armed conflict between brothers and that we advance firmly and surely in reconstructing our economy.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to the national reconciliation policy, which is the only door to attain the nation's unity and to definitely end confrontation and retaliation among Nicaraguans.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to the efforts that are being made to attain a concerted effort through an efficient dialogue and negotiation mechanism that will allow us to reach agreements on matters of great importance for Nicaraguan society.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to the forging of a new socio-economic model, which will eliminate the exploitation of Nicaraguans by other Nicaraguans and the subordination to foreign designs that do not promote the attainment of economic development and social justice.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to the boosting of negotiations with the demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance to avoid confrontation with them, to avoid confrontation between them and the Sandinist peasants, and to attain the effective disarmament of the civilians who are still armed in this country.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to the defense of the Nicaraguan people who are oppressed by poverty and who have the right to enjoy a more balanced and vigorous society—one that offers them more job opportunities and the basic services to allow them to [word indistinct] backwardness and poverty.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to the active participation in the negotiation process that attempts to bring peace to El Salvador and fully incorporate the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in the political life of that neighboring country.

We are pleased to observe the FSLN's renewed commitment to democracy, human rights, justice, freedom, sovereignty, self-determination, independence, and peaceful coexistence.

The government presided over by Mrs. Violeta Chamorro since 25 April of last year—which arose from the people's vote in the elections, which were the freest and most supervised with the highest turnout in the history of the country—shares these and other values that you today have affirmed. The government program, which Mrs. Chamorro promised the people in the past electoral campaign, offers among its fundamental objectives the establishment of the rule of law to exercise full democracy and enforce social justice, where all the sectors of the nation are expressed and can participate. The reaching of a consensus on a national commitment between the government and all sectors of society is aimed at forging reconciliation among Nicaraguans, building democracy and peace, and overcoming the country's overall crisis—all of those things are based on the unity of the nation and are guided to serve the fatherland and the common good above partisan interests. There is no doubt that, looking toward the future, more things unite us than separate us. Government and opposition want a Nicaragua great and strong; a Nicaragua healthy and respected; a Nicaragua united and sovereign; happy and open. We want Nicaragua to be a true model and example to the countries of the so-called Third World, which sometimes are not First World countries because of domestic problems and discord rather than because of external causes. In the past Nicaragua has suffered these two evils. In the past 150 years we have been the victim of intervention and attack on countless occasions. At the same time, we have split into fratricidal bands on just as many occasions, which has also served to make us easy prey for meddlers. Today we must put a stop to this tragic historical cycle. Based on the restructuring that has taken place in the wake of 1979, when the archaic foundations of the unjust and oppressive regimes of the past crumbled, and on the pillars of democracy that were consolidated with the 1990 election process and strengthened by the decision of the government presided over by Mrs. Chamorro to leave vendettas and confrontation behind and to establish a genuine unity of the nation on the bases of national reconciliation, we were able to forever forsake the intestine wars and foreign intervention that never allowed us Nicaraguans to build the Nicaragua—big and strong—that we all dreamed of, like Sandino, Ruben Dario, Fonseca, Pedro Joaquin, and like all who gave their lives in the past to see that dream turned into reality. [extended applause] To achieve that we must guarantee national stability. As the slogan that I saw as I entered this hall said, we must work earnestly and lovingly; we must settle our differences through dialogue and negotiations. We must govern above partisan interests and make a constructive opposition and ensure national unity. In these six years ahead of us, we must finish constructing the unshakable building of nation, which fuses peace with democracy, economic progress with social justice, and revolution with institutions.

When the Ibero-American presidents met in Guadalajara, it became evident that we needed to join efforts to avoid succumbing to the creation of megablocs in Europe, the Pacific, North America, and to get ready to enter the 21st Century under conditions that allow our peoples to move up and overcome Latin America's traditional backwardness. If Ibero-America seeks unity, Central America then will have to march along that same path at an even faster pace.

We, the Nicaraguans, who currently have the highest poverty rates in Ibero-America, must make a very strong effort to get all the Nicarguans to unite so that the dreams, which have always been held by the best sons of Nicaragua and by the responsible and progressive men of this small but great nation, come true.

That is why, at the closing of this first FSLN Congress, I want to invite you to work together—government and opposition—to overcome the country's current and well-known situation.

Let us work together to confront the challenge of the 21st Century. Let us work together to accomplish the feat of constructing the great and strong Nicaragua that we all want to see.

Personally, I am sure that Nicaragua has a great future. All of us who are here know this. However, this future, which is in our hands and sometimes seems to escape us, can only be made a reality if we work for our only fatherland together, as brothers, in reconciliation, as sons of one mother, and as Nicaraguans who have the obligation of loving Nicaragua above any personal, economic, partisan, or electoral interests.

The government of President Violeta Chamorro has this willingness and I feel here, at the closing of this congress, that the same willingness exists. Let us join our forces and let nobody stop us—within the country or from abroad—from constructing the Nicaragua that we, the Nicaraguans, want. Only in this way will the Sandinist be able to meet in a congress 30 years from now and feel truly proud of the work that we are just about to start today. Thank you.

Ramirez on Election

PA2407232191 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] Dr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, who was elected yesterday to the new Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate, which is made up of 10 members, has said that the first task "of this new party" is "to again achieve a national consensus" that will allow" the FSLN's return to power.

Shortly after being elected, Ramirez said that "the FSLN must test, under the new circumstances, its ability to renew itself and continue to be a modern party."

This challenge, he assured, involves the offering of new outlooks and solutions to national problems based on what he defines as "the great task...achieving a national consensus again" to turn the FSLN into an "overwhelmingly victorious" party in the upcoming elections.

Ramirez added that there are urgent tasks, including the defense of popular achievements and the poor people's interests, that must be combined with that great task—the achievement of national consensus—because "a party without power, standing in the opposition, cannot implement a genuine project such as the one that the FSLN must promote."

He said that "yesterday, in the wee hours of the morning, when we were discussing the statutes, I thought to myself: We are building a new FSLN."

In this regard, Ramirez recalled that until now the National Directorate has been the top FSLN body. The congress's mandate has now placed it under the control of the Sandinist assembly, and in the last instance, under the congress that must meet every four years.

"Instead of saddening me, because I was becoming a member of a new national directorate, I was filled with joy for this meant that the FSLN was enforcing the notion of a genuinely democratic party," the Sandinist leader said.

He added that an important characteristic of this new national directorate is that its members are elected for a set period (four years) at the end of which they must account for their actions and be evaluated by the voters, who can ratify or remove them from office at the end of that period.

Another aspect of the FSLN's structural transformation is the balance that exists between the National Directorate's actions and its decisionmaking process.

According to Ramirez, the new axis of the National Directorate that will ensure harmony will be the secretary general. "It is true that the entire directorate has played a remarkable role, but there must be a visible leader in a party who is facing new challenges," he added.

Ramirez said that he feels good to be part of the National Directorate, because "I know all its members; they are old friends and I am not going into something different or contradictory."

He believes, however, that a debate will be the basis for the harmony of the party as a whole and its leadership bodies in the future.

"I wish to underscore this with emphasis: The National Directorate must create conditions for a true political debate within the FSLN and even more so now, because the new goal of Sandinism cannot be determined by a group of 10 people, but by its elected body: The Sandinist assembly," Ramirez added.

This issue, which worries the new National Directorate, will only be resolved, according to Ramirez, by "a debate that must exist within the party, its media, its political and academic forums, and its research institutes."

Ramirez added that conditions exist to obtain this harmonious process if the Congress reflects the real composition of Sandinism.

According to Ramirez, "This is a Sandinist Front of open democratic debate that does not fear opinions and that points toward a future perspective since it will be the next congress that will be called on to fix another step for the FSLN."

Another aspect of the new FSLN restructuring is the relationship between the National Directorate and the Sandinist Assembly. According to Ramirez, the Sandinist Assembly should be organized by the National Directorate.

The FSLN leader stated that "The National Directorate must recommend a concrete agenda of strategies to

follow in order for the Sandinist Assembly to debate them, approve them, and have them implemented by the National Directorate."

He pointed out that this harmony must be based on the respect for the decisions made by the Sandinist Assembly, with which it must maintain a permanent consultation.

Ramirez stressed that the Sandinist Assembly could be convened quite easily and that "it would be harmful if this organ is not convened to make the appropiate decisions it must make, and if it does not play its role."

We asked him: What will suffer as a consequence of his newly acquired responsibilities? He does not hesitate and answers: his occupation as a writer.

"However, I am prepared for this. He who boards this ship must learn to swim in the waters that are moving beneath it. And of course, from the very moment I accepted these responsibilities I committed myself to putting all my energy into fulfilling them. I am sacrificing my life as a writer, of which I am always talking with nostalgia, because I have never been able to be the writer I wish to be.

Radio Rumbo Returns After Sandinist Seizure

PA2307180491 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] From Rivas, Radio Rumbo, which had been seized by the Sandinists, has returned to the airwaves. The former owners of the radio station are recovering their transmitting stations, their homes, and their lands. We know of radio station broadcasters who are on the air with stolen transmitters, who live in homes that belong to other people, and who have erected antennas on property that also belongs to other people. Radio Rumbo was part of the Sandinist pinata-like giveaway. In the Nicaraguan media there is talk that the Nicaraguan Government should make restitution to Mariano Valle Peters, a well-known independent radio station owner, whom the Somozists deprived of several radio stations, a building, and lands that belonged to his mother. It has been confirmed that the Sandinists turned over his house—which did not belong to them—to a new radio station operator.

Recontras Attack Power Plant, Kill Guard

PA2307143491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1255 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] The Nicaraguan Institute of Energy's Centro America power plant was attacked by a group of the so-called recontras yesterday. The rebels had been planning the attack for several months but their attempts had been foiled on several occasions. This time, however, the recontras slit the throat of the guard Francisco Sobalvarro and robbed the company store. No damage was reported to the power plant installations.

Today at 1100 the Institute of Energy authorities will issue a report on the recontras' armed attack that has resulted in another victim. Up until midnight, the police had no leads on who the attackers were.

Meanwhile, unofficial sources report that a Nicaraguan Resistance member's relative has been kidnapped.

Panama

Free Zone Government, Strikers Said Deadlocked

PA2407233091 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The truck drivers' strike at the Colon Duty Free Zone has so far caused over 125 million balboas in losses. On the sixth day of actions by the truck drivers, who are preventing the entry or departure of merchandise from the Free Zone, the conflict between management and the Serafin Nino cooperative is still unresolved. Neither side has changed its position. The drivers are blocking the entrance to the Free Zone and management has not announced any planned dialogue.

[Free Zone General Manager Jaime Ford] "Both sides are definitely stubborn. I repeat, an agreement will be possible if they continue to talk instead of to seek confrontations."

Six days into the strike, commercial activity at the Free Zone has been seriously affected. [Dario Selles], president of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists, has expressed his concern over the strike.

[Selles] "I believe this problem could be resolved if the government resumes the dialogue and adopts the necessary measures. This situation must, perforce, come to an end because it is affecting the image of Panama and the economy of the province."

Meanwhile, policemen are still guarding areas inside the Free Zone and Education Ministry officials today closed public and private schools in Colon Province, where the situation is calm. In the opinion of Monsignor Carlos Maria Ariz, the situation is one step away from social upheaval, the problem being that other sectors could capitalize on the situation.

[Msgr. Ariz] "If an agreement is not reached, Colon could become a hotbed of violence."

Some teachers and students have joined the strike to support the transportation workers, but a large number of residents have been affected because there are no buses to take them to their jobs.

In the opinion of Roberto Troncoso, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, Colon can no longer stand this serious situation.

[Troncoso] "I believe the situation requires a little political resolve, a little action. This province and the Free Zone make a significant contribution to the national treasury, and I believe that what is needed at this time is a greater effort to sit down, communicate, and consider Colon's needs so that the city can develop and generate more jobs for the well-being of all. I believe that the sides should change their attitudes, sit down, communicate, and regulate the transportation system."

Argentina

Menem Against U.S. Wheat Sale to PRC

PY2507003291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2251 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stated that the U.S. decision to authorize the sale of 1 million tons of U.S. wheat to China "was not well received at all" by the Argentine Government.

Menem added: "We will continue to hold talks on this subject. Obviously, a number of problems are involved, problems that have not been adequately solved. I believe that during our upcoming meetings, especially on the occasion of my visit to the United States, we will straighten out this question."

In remarks to the press, Menem added: "We do not like this type of attitude. We are going to submit our proposal [as received], but Argentina has ensured, for the time being, the sale of its wheat surplus abroad."

Eduardo de Zavalia, president of the Argentine Rural Society (SRA), has admitted that the sale of subsidized wheat to China "will hurt the market," but he described remarks on the subject made by some farmers as "a bit exaggerated."

Zavalia said: "This sale will obviously hurt the market, but one must take into account that these are countries with a very low purchasing power."

Speaking over a radio station, Zavalia said that "both China and the Soviet Union are undergoing major economic difficulties and it is proper to ask whether they would have bought Argentine wheat if the United States had not offered them its subsidized wheat."

Zavalia said that this sale "could have an adverse effect on the market, but in no way should one take heed of the exaggerated reports—which I have heard—estimating the wheat price at harvest time at $55" [unit of measure not specified]. He noted that the price will be "around $74."

Zavalia noted that "China is not an exclusive customer of Argentina. It has made purchases from all markets and occasionally, from Argentina." He added that the rural sector has time and again objected to "the policy of subsidies that brings market prices down and makes it increasingly difficult for Argentina to sell its products abroad."

Reportage on Charges Against Air Force Official

Minister Denies Changes

PY2407224091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2209 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jul (NA)—Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez today denied any changes in the Air Force leadership. He admitted, however, that he will wait for the court's decision on charges filed against Jose Julia, Air Force chief of staff, before "taking appropriate measures."

Gonzalez said: "The episode affecting the Air Force must be solved in keeping with normal procedures. We are awaiting the court's decision before taking appropriate measures."

In statements to Argentina Televisora Color, Gonzalez reaffirmed his support for Julia, but under the condition that he "complies with and enforces laws and regulations."

Gonzalez pointed out that the government "will cooperate with the judge to clarify all charges and unrest" resulting from the accusations against Julia made by Tomas Rodriguez, former Air Force deputy commander.

He admitted that "the case goes beyond the military sector," and that "the court's decision must be awaited."

Gonzalez categorically denied the possibility of a military uprising, noting that "for the time being, a sector will not support any action that could disrupt the institutional system."

He also denied any unrest within the Armed Forces because he believes "this is a time in Argentine history when they are expressing a clearer attitude on joining republican life, submitting to the political power, and showing their willingness to cooperate in the transformation process."

He said: "The reorganization programs are merely aimed at reorganizing the leadership structure so it can follow a logical order and, thus, initiate a stage of modernization and training."

Charges Reiterated

PY2407232091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jul 91 p 11

[Excerpts] (DYN-NA)—Former Air Force second-in-command Tomas Rodriguez yesterday ratified the malfeasance charges he brought against Air Force Chief-of-Staff Brigadier Jose Julia and handed the courts unexpected evidence to back up his case.

Rodriguez asked the authorities to protect the new evidence carefully, claiming it would help clear up many aspects of the accusations against his former boss in connection with the irregular purchase of military hardware in the United States.

Julia recently removed the deputy chief-of-staff from his post for breaching the chain of command by taking his accusations straight to a civilian court.

Judge Martin Irurzun met the two military leaders yesterday, and said Julia would not be indicted until he had reviewed the evidence presented by Rodriguez and determined whether there were grounds for the arraignment. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez is currently serving a 30-day house arrest. He will afterwards remain active for one year and then be passed into retirement.

Yoma Tenders Resignation; Accepted by Menem

PY2407154091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1508 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jul (TELAM) — President Carlos Menem has accepted the resignation, which was submitted to him at noon today, of Amira Yoma, the former audiences secretary.

This was reported by Raul Burzaco, media communication secretary, in the Press Room of the Government House. He added that Menem "is signing the decree accepting the resignation" of the former official.

Violence Marks Battle for Justicialist Leadership

PY2407232491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jul 91 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The battle for the Justicialist leadership in Buenos Aires province reached new heights as three Peronist militants were wounded on Monday [22 July] night and yesterday morning in pre-election related incidents.

The incidents marked the worst pre-electoral violence since Argentina returned to democracy in 1983.

Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa yesterday said that in the wake of the violence, he may send the Federal Police to maintain peace during Sunday's primaries in Buenos Aires province, where Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde is running against San Martin Mayor Carlos Brown for the gubernatorial candidacy.

The first incident occurred when Merlo city councillor Atilio Alessi was beat up as he helped Justicialist activists to put up campaign posters for Sunday's primaries. Witnesses claim that he was assaulted by thugs associated with Governor Antonio Cafiero.

Also last night at the Eva Peron Justicialist offices a youth and a Peronist activist were shot and severely wounded, as antagonists within the Justicialist party decided to settle their differences using guns.

Pilar Mayor Humberto Succaro's house was also attacked during the night. The justicialist mayor was home, but said he was upstairs when the attack took place.

Yet another incident of violence in the run-up to the elections was reported yesterday when militants were putting up posters supporting candidate for Moreno mayor Roberto Lombardo. The young Justicialist affiliates were shot at, threatened and released two hours later. The incident was politically motivated since the gunmen told the militants to stop campaigning or they would be killed.

Tear Gas Grenade Thrown at Station in Cordoba

Incident Reported

PY2407130091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1203 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Cordoba, 24 Jul (TELAM) — Early this morning, a tear gas grenade was thrown at the premises of Radio Nacional. It caused discomfort amongst the personnel, although there were no other consequences. Police sources have identified the grenade as being of the 555-CS type.

The incident occurred just before 0400 at the radio station premises on the corner of Santa Rosa and General Paz Streets. The device exploded in the gardens of the radio station, and the gas percolated through a window.

The anchorwoman of a music program, the individual in charge of the press department, and technical personnel were on the premises at the time of the attack. They suffered from the effects of the gas. Consequently, they were unable to get outside, because the device landed outside the door.

Grenade Activated 'Accidentally'

PY2407173091 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Marcos Sastre, director of Radio Nacional Cordoba, has asserted that the tear gas grenade that exploded today, behind the radio station building, was not an attack as initially thought.

Sastre said that, according to specialized Police personnel, the artifact had been accidentally left in the gardens of the building, and when activated it released gas that filtered inside the building through a window.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Evaluates Ibero-American Summit

PY2307210891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Interview with President Jaime Paz Zamora by reporters Eduardo Perez and Carlos Meza in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 20 July]

[Text] [Perez] Mr. President, which was the best speech of the Ibero-American Summit?

[Paz] My speech. [laughs]

[Meza] If you had to choose among the topics in your proposal, which one would you choose?

[Paz] I would choose the proposal for creating an Indian Development Fund, because it can be implemented faster.

[Perez] Give us just one name. Who was the president closest to you and Bolivia?

[Paz] Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

[Meza] Do you think the Ibero-American Summit will mark the true beginning of an Ibero-American community that is integrated, as we all wish?

[Paz] Yes. I am deeply convinced that this community that will turn 500 years old next year. This is beginning to become one because of modern needs.

[Perez] Can you give us one concrete summit achievement benefiting Bolivia?

[Paz] The fact that we presented our views as a community, as a homogeneous block, was very important.

[Meza] Are we closer to any solution to problems affecting us and our neighboring countries, as a consequence of the summit?

[Paz] The spheres are different. The Southern sphere has its own history, problems, and interests. The Ibero-American community will give us a closeness that will make our presence important in the world community.

[Perez] What was the most exciting moment of the summit?

[Paz] The presidents' tour of Guadalajara. We noted a special enthusiasm in the people. They seemed to be quite aware of the summit's historic dimension.

[Meza] Why did you not mention drug trafficking in your proposals?

[Paz] I did not want to connect Bolivia's image with drug trafficking too much. We talked about alternative development programs at other meetings. We were able to obtain the Ibero-American community's understanding of the problem. We talked about the surrender of some drug traffickers to Bolivian justice. We wanted the community to understand those two topics, but we did not want them at the summit's start so as not to stress the image of a country linked to drug trafficking. That would not help Bolivia in the international community.

[Perez] What was your saddest or most frustrating moment?

[Paz] I had some nostalgic moments, when I realized that modernization will change our traditions. Modern technology will help us restructure our community, but we might lose some cultural characteristics uniting us, particularly when facing a world that is so competitive. I perceived this effect in some presidents, who looked more like modern U.S. businessmen. It was not sad, it was nostalgic.

Ministers Negotiate Extradition Treaty in U.S.

PY2307132091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Gustavo Fernandez, minister of the Presidency, has reported that the government will promulgate this week the decree that establishes the legal norms for the nonextradition of drug traffickers, who voluntarily surrender to Bolivian justice.

However, it has been reported in Congress that the foreign minister, the interior minister, and the justice under secretary are in the United States negotiating an extradition treaty for drug traffickers.

Deputy Wilson Lora, president of the Chamber of Deputies committee that investigates drug trafficking, has said that the foreign minister should present himself to the committee before 26 July to report in detail about the U.S. agreements and support for the antidrug struggle in Bolivia.

[Begin Lora recording, in progress] ... we had agreed that this would be discussed today, however, we have learned that the foreign minister is in the United States, with the interior minister, possibly negotiating some kind of aid or something regarding extradition. This is why the Foreign Ministry has requested the postponement of the meeting until 26 July, which is reasonable because the minister is not in Bolivia right now, but [words indistinct] until 26 July. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments

PY2407182491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1547 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Reported by Francisco Roque Bacarreza]

[Text] Washington, 24 Jul (EFE)—This week, Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde informed the Washington government about the special amnesty program for drug traffickers in exchange for not extraditing them to the United States.

On 24 July Iturralde told EFE that "the reaction of the U.S. Government is positive," stressing that U.S. authorities "want the program to function and have demonstrated their respect for the Bolivian decision."

The minister announced that during the next few days the Bolivian Government will promulgate a decree that will, among other things, open a four month period in which traffickers can voluntarily surrender to the authorities and receive a guarantee that they will not be extradited to the United States.

According to Latin American sources, the Bolivian decision does not agree with the U.S. position, which seeks the extradition of the regional drug kingpins, who are sending large quantities of drugs to the United States.

The U.S. Justice Department is particularly interested in extraditing Jorge Roca Suarez, two of his brothers, and his mother, who are currently under arrest in Bolivia.

The new Colombian Constitution, which was approved recently, bans the extradition of Colombian drug traffickers to the United States.

Latin American sources in Washington believe that the Colombian decision has affected the the prospects for Bolivian traffickers, who find themselves with one of two alternatives: Surrender and not be extradited, or run the risk of being captured and deported.

Iturralde justified his meetings with high ranking State Department officials, Justice Department officials, and with several leader of the U.S. Congress, and stressed that "the trip to Washington was made specifically to impart information, in accordance with a sovereign Bolivian decision that is based on the spirit of the Vienna Convention (1990)."

He stated that the information on the Bolivian project has also been passed to several European governments that are worried about the trafficking of cocaine.

The minister indicated that the special decree will guarantee the nonextradition of the drug traffickers, who surrender to the authorities, voluntarily confess their crimes, and give information about the cocaine production and trafficking structures.

The shortest sentence for drug trafficking in Bolivia is five years and the maximum is 25 years.

Iturralde made it clear that the special measure will not limit the efforts of the authorities in the antidrug fight.

The foreign minister added that the Supreme Court will hand down a decision on an extradition request, which must contain evidence, within two months after it has been submitted, as is happening in the case of the Roca Suarez family.

Iturralde indicated that Bolivia will continue the alternative development program in order to give thousands of peasants a chance to change their crops.

Regarding the program for militarizing the antidrug fight, upon which the United States insists, the minister reiterated that units of the Armed Forces that receive special training will supply logistical support for the special police force.

He highlighted the fact that traffickers and their laboratories are the main objectives, while the peasants who produce coca leaves will not be repressed.

Finally, Iturralde stated that Bolivia, the second biggest producer of coca in the world, has implemented an overall program to fight drug trafficking that includes improving the judicial branch, the modernization of the penal system, and salary improvements to eliminate the risk of corruption.

Legislator Criticizes Trip

PY2407162891 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Jul 91 p 5

[Text] Guillermo Richter, Beni Department deputy, believes that the visit by Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra and Justice Under Secretary Roger Pando to Washington to explain the new antidrug strategy, which seeks to encourage the surrender of drug traffickers on the condition that they will not be extradited to the United States, is an act of subservience.

Richter, who was the first to announce the drug traffickers' willingness to surrender to the Bolivian court, said that the Bolivian Government decision to explain the strategy to the U.S. Government shows no intention of following sovereign national channels.

Richter said that there is not a coherent antidrug plan, adding that this is fully confirmed by the contradictory remarks of the interior and information ministers: The interior minister announced that the countdown for the surrender of the extraditables will start once President Jaime Paz signs the corresponding decree, while the information minister said that it has already started. These contradictions, and the lack of a coherent policy on this issue, shows that the executive branch is still in "diapers" over the meaning of a peaceful surrender of drug traffickers on the condition that they will not be extradited to the United States.

Richter denied that the Interior Ministry authorities had gone to the United States to explain the new antidrug strategy. He added: "The government is seeking the approval of President George Bush over the drug traffickers' offer to surrender so that it can then seeks Bolivia's approval."

Finally, the Beni legislator said that the dilemma of the Bolivian Government rests between choosing war or contributing to the pacification of the country. He said that this should be resolved through legal channels, which ban the extradition of drug traffickers to other countries.

Richter said that extradition is a new legal tool which was not contemplated in the extradition treaty signed by Bolivia and the United States in 1990, adding that the Vienna Convention is not a legal tool through which to extradite drug traffickers.

He said that the Vienna Convention urges the signatory countries, among them Bolivia, to include the ability to extradite drug traffickers in their laws. This move should be accompanied by the signing of bilateral and multilateral agreements that entail mutual commitments and establish juridical extradition parameters.

Umopar, U.S. Personnel Begin Military Course

Personnel Arrives

PY2407154491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Jul 91 Second Secton p 1

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Riberalta, 15 Jul—The second course of riverside operations, under the supervision of U.S. instructors, was inaugurated this morning. Umopar [Rural Area Police Patrol Unit] personnel will take part in the course that will last two weeks.

In a brief talk with he journalists, Captain Alfredo Jimenez Frankel, the Beni 1st Naval District commander, said: "I wantto tell you of the arrival of some U.S. personnel and of some Umopar personnel under the responsibility of a police lieutenant.

A Hercules airplane carrying the U.S. personnel arrived from Panama yesterday.

Capt. Jimenez reiterated that this is the same course that was held last year. He said that riverside operations will be carried out using four Pirana river patrol craft on the Beni and Madre de Dios Rivers. Capt. Jimenez said: "These are just exercies jointly carried out with U.S. personnel.

Asked about the presence of Umopar personnel in these exercises, Capt. Jimenez said: "I ask the people to forget the idea that actions will be carried out somewhere in our Republic. They are coming with their best goodwill to participate here on thiscourse, this riverside operation, with all their personnel.

The Umopar personnel will cooperate throughout the operations, but will not take part in actions," Capt. Jimenez stressed.

The military garrison commander was very cautious about specifying the number of U.S. and Umopar personnel participating in these joint exercises. He just responded: "The number of U.S. and Umopar personnel who will participate isso small that they do not even amount to a section" (36).

The U.S. personnel brought with them a pickup truck, four Pirana river patrolcrafts, and material that will be used during the two weks of training.

Violence Atributed to Training

PY2407001291 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Jul 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Restructuring the Felcn"]

[Text] A former commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force [Felcn] has attributed the violence of the police corps' methods to its taining. The observation was made when, after the political repercussion of the abuses committed in Santa Ana, it was announced that the Felcn will be completely restructured.

In General Lucio Anez's opinion, the problem lies in the fact that U.S. instructors recommend a strong, decisive, and violent action that is understandable in a society, where the confrontation between police and criminals is a matter of life or death. This is seldom the case in Bolivia.

It is worth recalling, as examples, the capture or surrender of the cocaine king, who is being held in the San Pedro prison, as well as that of others, who are accused of involvement in drug trafficking. One of those who escaped prison returned to it of his own accord, as soon as news of the escape was broadcast. In recent days, we have witnessed the peaceful manner in which one of the most wanted men in the Santa Ana operation turned himself in to the Felcn.

While all those "big fish" are treated with some consideration, the Chapare peasants are not given the same treatment. From time to time, these peasants publicly denounced the abuses committed by the Felcn. That situation has been attested to by congressional missions, who visited Chapare and won a commitment from authorities that the indiscriminate violence against the coca producers would stop.

The previously mentioned observation comes to mind as a group of U.S. instructors arrived in Riberalta, Beni Department, to begin training Navy personnel in "riverside operations."

Spokesmen for the U.S. diplomatic mission noted that those training exercises have nothing to do with the Annex III signed between La Paz and Washington. At the same time, they announced that another U.S. military mission will be charged with training Bolivian Army personnel in the antidrug fight, under a plan similar to that implemented in Montero. The purpose of this commentary is, however, to focus on the type of training given to personnel of the different services.

Keeping in mind what has happened with the Felcn, it is advisable for military authorities to make sure that military training agreements are not at variance with Bolivian military regulations. Otherwise, we will end up fighting our own countrymen, and realize later that we are engage in a war that must be, in fact, fought on the streets of major cities where cocaine is consumed.

That is particularly important at a time when relations among the Armed Forces, Police, and civilian population are mending and recent errors must not be repeated.

It would be naive to put all the blame for Felcn abuses on the training of its personnel. In restructuring this police unit, attention should also be focused on the causes of corruption that can be traced to both the process of personnel selection and low salaries. It is important to be aware of these problems and to have the will to resolve them.

Traffickers Said Moving to 'Inaccessible' Areas

PY2407142091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Jul 91 Second Section p 1

[Text] Cochabamba, 15 Jul (PRESENCIA)—Drug traffickers, who were operating in the tropical zone of Cochabamba Department, are gradually moving toward inaccessible areas in Beni Department, as a result of repressive actions by specialized police forces.

According to Carlos Sanchez Guegner, a police colonel, who is the departmental commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force (Felcn), this is why the antidrug fight in the Chapare "has become more difficult and complicated."

Sanchez said: "Conditions for taking control measures have become less favorable" because of the thick woods and the vastness of the territory. He noted, however, that efforts have been made to comply with the instructions issued by the Felcn general command.

Sanchez added: "It is virtually impossible to spot factories from the air because of poor visibility. We have reports that the drug traffickers are using camouflaged tents and other devices to remain undetected by the Felcn forces."

Sanchez told PRESENCIA that cocaine production in Cochabamba Department has declined. By contrast, he said, patrol and repressive operations organized by the Felcn headquarters in Chimore, 185 km from Cochabamba, have intensified.

Sanchez also reported that from 3 to 10 July, the Rural Area Police Patrol Unit (Umopar) confiscated 10,200 grams of cocaine and 33 liters of sweet water; that is, some 11,000 grams of drugs; and destroyed six factories that used 12 coca maceration pits.

Regarding precursors, Umopar personnel seized 200 liters of diesel oil, 20 liters of kerosene, 88 kg of sodium bicarbonate, 30 liters of sulphuric acid, three liters of ammonia water, and about 100 kg of lime. Umopar agents also seized an "Icom" radio transmitter. These items were seized during operations carried out in Puerto San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Isinuta, Sinahota, Paracti, and Villa Victoria.

It has been reported that seven people were arrested. Once the requirements of the General Law on Coca and Controlled Substances are met through the Judicial Police, these people will be turned over to the prosecutor's office.

Government Official on Antiterrorist Measures

PY2307235291 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Jul 91 p 7

[Text] The Armed Forces and the National Police will jointly carry out antiterrorist actions by setting up checkpoints in several areas throughout the country. Police and military personnel will set up checkpoints in the provincial capitals of the La Paz Department.

La Paz Prefect Fernando Cajias yesterday said that one of the first checkpoints will be set up in Achacachi, which will be designed to control traffic through access roads to El Alto and La Paz.

Military and police officials have conveyed their concern over the resurgence of extremist groups, which could be responsible for two recent attacks.

Marco Antonio Oviedo, Interior Ministry under secretary, announced that state intelligence organizations have taken steps to patrol strategic facilities considered likely targets of some terrorist groups.

Oviedo said that while the Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army (EGTK) claimed responsibility for a 5 July attack in El Alto, no group has yet claimed responsibility for the most recent attack; that is, the 13 July attack against the La Paz-Cochabamba all-purpose pipeline, 5 km from Senkata point.

Oviedo noted that because there is no similarity between these two attacks, the possibility that the 13 July attack was a second EGTK attack has been ruled out.

Oviedo said: "We are conducting the appropriate investigations." He added that in the face of the attacks against an energy tower and the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] facilities it has been ordered that "police patrols be reinforced to safeguard strategic facilities in the urban areas of La Paz and in other cities."

Oviedo reported that "since last weekend the police have been ordered to markedly reinforce their security measures" at YPFB, Cobee [Bolivian Electric Power Company], and Samapa [Municipal Drinking Water and Sewer Service] facilities.

General Jaime Cespedes, National Police commander, also has reported that personnel from specialized police organizations are conducting a thorough investigation to identify those responsible for these attacks.

Cespedes voiced concern over the resurgence of violence that brings uneasiness to the people and is aimed at creating an atmosphere of instability in the country. He expressed, however, his confidence that intelligence organizations will succeed in preventing these types of actions.

Brazil

Collor Remarks Seen as Foreign Policy Shift

PY2507020491 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Jul 91 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "A Sunday Bravado"]

[Text] On 21 July President Fernando Collor de Mello gave a brilliant demonstration of how important issues are decided in the new Brazil. On that day President Collor—still wearing a T-shirt after jogging—characterized the IMF as "that organization," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus as "the boss of that organization," and the chief of the IMF South Atlantic Division [Jose Fajgenbaum] (the official who will analyze the [IMF delegation chief Thomas] Reichmann mission report) as "servile." It was a good start to the week for those who understand political marketing. Collor's extensive remarks on 20 July as to what Fajgenbaum should do in his own house had already received lavish praise from a good part of the pterodactyls of the Brazilian left. Yesterday, it was total victory: Congress President Mauro Benevides and PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], PT [Workers Party], and PDT [Democratic Workers Party] leaders joined Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola in criticizing the IMF official. The candidate of the "right" [President Collor] had been redeemed, Brazilian sovereignty had been properly defended, and the IMF, "that organization," and its "boss" could only implement one measure to avoid aggravating the situation created by "a servile person who made such unfortunate declarations:" The IMF had to recall the "servile" official and his colleague, Reichmann, and punish them.

What could have been dismissed with a "I have already said what I had to say" turned —as we showed in our Saturday editorial—into a conflict with the IMF. The president of the Republic, usually very careful about the role Brazil plays in Ibero-America —"with a clear awareness of its destiny, future, and sovereignty"—should take two things into account: First, things that are so serious—admitting that his excellency was right—should not be discussed in a T-shirt after jogging, and second, that the matter was at least controversial since Fajgenbaum denied saying what was attributed .o him in the press. In a case such as this—particularly because it touches on a delicate issue—the affected parties deserve the benefit of the doubt. Besides, the head of a state must see that national interests are above misinterpretations. Curiously, President Collor de Mello preferred a path of confrontation. What will happen if Camdessus does nothing? What will happen if Camdessus waits patiently before recalling Fajgenbaum to hand him the Reichmann mission report for ana'ysis? What will happen if the "serviles" pack their suitcases and leave? The president of the Republic did not weigh these possibilities. He preferred to destroy the image that linked him with military governments that signed letters of intent with the IMF. But the IMF does not order anything. Camdessus has repeatedly said that the Brazilian Government decides whether it wants IMF assistance. If the government says "yes," it must follow IMF regulations. The IMF will not lose anything if Collor de Mello insists on his harsh criticism and provokes a breakdown in the talks. On the contrary, the IMF will have an additional $2 billion to loan the Soviet Union, if it requests it and if IMF regulations permit the operation.

The anti-imperialist flag was again hoisted at the Government Palace—this time by the president—to the joy of Leonel Brizola, who recently held a two and a half hour meeting with the president to discuss international politics. The fact that the anti-imperialist flag flutters at the Planalto Palace is an indication of a subtle process that, according to every indication, is under way at the Foreign Ministry. The change is sponsored by those who want to conduct Brazilian foreign policy with a narrow vision of the Third World. The movement is headed by Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, who revealed his preferences in Mexico, through comments on the freedom of the Cuban people to change their political regime.

We would like to attribute the president's remarks to an excess of sun during the morning jog and to a desire for publicity, but there are facts that must be carefully considered. During an interview by EL EXCELSIOR before his trip to Guadalajara, the president used metaphors ("the Empire of the North, absolutely alone, rich, and progressive") to describe humanity's risks from the "growing breach" between north and south. Collor also said that modern technology, which gives the north an edge, "is the property of all humanity and not just a few." Collor added that "the Third World foreign debt cannot be considered just a credit and loan operation." The president said his government wants to fulfill its commitments "but without demanding even greater sacrifices from Brazilian society than it has already made for quite some time." It is through these remarks and through the welcome to Castro in Mexico, that we see a change in progress.

The current situation is serious enough without the president's bravado defending a sovereignty that was not threatened by anyone. The bravado is even more evident if we consider that his excellency has said abroad that the Constitution must be changed in order to introduced structural reforms without which—as poor Fajgenbaum would say in his argument—the IMF or "that organization," could not consider Brazil as a candidate for an extended fund facility [preceding three words in English].

Collor Promulgates 1986 U.S. Antidrug Agreement

PY2507035291 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Brazil has signed an agreement on fighting drug trafficking with the United States.

President Fernando Collor today signed a decree promulgating a mutual cooperation agreement with the U.S. Government on fighting drug trafficking. The agreement was signed in 1986, but it will only go into effect on 25 July 1991, when the decree, signed by the president today, is published in the official union gazette.

Under the agreement, the United States is committed to providing financial assistance to Brazil to undertake

actions aimed at repressing and preventing the use of drugs and at rehabilitating drug addicts.

The program of cooperation on fighting drug trafficking that was signed between Brazil and the United States and promulgated today by President Fernando Collor also provides for an exchange of experts and meetings between experts from both countries, whenever necessary in order to trade information on fighting and repressing drug trafficking.

President Signs Law on Social Security Benefits

PY2507030291 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor signed today the new law on social security costs and benefits. As of this date, no retiree can receive a pension lower than the minimum monthly wage.

The new social security costs and benefits ratified today by President Collor ended three years of discussions among congressmen, government officials, and workers' representatives in compliance with the Constitution. This law determines that no worker can receive less than the minimum monthly wage, and that the stipends are to be calculated using the last 36 paychecks earned by the worker. Women can retire with 25 or 30 years on the job and receive the same stipend on the basis of the last 36 months.

The law will also benefit 12 million rural workers now earning less than the minimum monthly wage and will grant them the same rights as urban workers.

According to (Osvaldo Lorez), president of the Brazilian Confederation of Retirees and Pensioners, the new law, which is retroactive to 5 April 1991, will also correct distortions in retirees' stipends.

[Begin (Lorez) recording] Workers who retired after the new Constitution was promulgated—more than 500,000—are receiving nearly half of the stipends that they should be receiving. These stipends will now be recalculated and updated to comply with the new Constitution. [end recording]

Luiz Antonio Medeiros, head of the Unionist Force [Forca Sindical], said another great victory of the workers is that they will now participate in the Social Security Administration Council.

[Begin Medeiros recording] It was a workers' victory after two years of arduous struggle. Victory awaits those who struggle. Workers can now retire because the last year will be corrected. Also, over 75 percent of the retirees and pensioners draw less than the minimum wage. Now, an individual cannot earn less then the minimum wage. In addition, the Social Security Administration Council has been created and the workers will participate in it. Thus, the workers can oversee the social security system and prevent frauds. It is a victory for the workers, Congress, and the President. [end recording]

Unionist Luiz Antonio Medeiros noted that, with worker participation in the administration of the social security system, resources will no longer be diverted to the construction of palaces and bridges; they will now be used to benefit workers and retirees.

Minister Soothes Military Over Salaries Issue

PY2407161891 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Jul 91 p A 4

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Yesterday, Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho met with the military ministers. He guaranteed that a bill will be submitted to Congress in early August that will seek to adjust the salaries of public servants [as published]. In their June paycheck, the military received the same level of salary as they collected in April, an issue that worries Army Minister Carlos Tinoco, Navy Minister Mario Cesar Flores, Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro, and Luiz Antonio Rocha Veneu, the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA).

Passarinho then explained that by 8 August—when the bill should have been approved—a complementary military payroll will be issued to adjust salaries of this sector. [passage omitted]

Multinational Companies on Investment Obstacles

PY2407120291 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Jul 91 First Section, p 8

[Text] Executives of some large multinational companies yesterday told Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira that Brazil should adopt measures if it wants to attract new foreign investments. Among the necessary measures are the removal of "bureaucratic irritations", which disallow tax exemption for national and foreign capital.

National Economy Secretary Dorothea Werneck has agreed with the businessmen, and mentioned another "bureaucratic irritations", which she thinks should also be modified: The additional taxation levied on remitted profits. "This practice is maintained only by Brazil and a few other countries," she said.

"The businessmen have told me that when a foreign investor is seeking investment opportunities, this kind of additional taxation may discourage capital investment even though the law has not been applied for a few years," Werneck said.

Werneck, Minister Marques, and Central Bank President Francisco Gros lunched with executives from the multinational companies Rhodia, Nestle, Shell, White Martins, Olivetti, and Xerox. The executives are members of the Foreign Investors Group in Brazil, which yesterday presented Minister Marques with suggestions for changes in the foreign investments law.

The law on the remittance of profits abroad, which has been criticized by the businessmen, establishes that if a

multinational company within a two or three year period remits abroad an average of more than 12 percent of its capital registered in the Central Bank, it must pay an additional 25 percent on remittances of up to 12 percent. An additional tax is charged for remittances exceeding that 12 percent.

Olivetti President Enrico Misasi said: "There is a whole set of modifications," Gunnar Vikberg, coordinator of the businessmen group, added: "Basically, it is necessary to modify the law, its interpretation, and the discrimination that exists in the constitution regarding foreign capital."

Rhodia President Edson Musa said that the company will invest $60 million (22 billion Cruzeiros on the black market) this year in Brazil. "The investment would be larger if the conditions were better," he said. Olivetti is waiting for the Senate to approve the informatics law, before it increases its investments and begins production of computers in Brazil.

Beside the changes to the Constitution, to the informatics market reserve, and to the taxation policy, these businessmen want Brazil to ensure respect for patent rights, a subject that is also being discussed in Congress, and which must be voted on this year. "It is not just foreign companies that are not investing because of the lack of protection. Brazilian iron and steel companies are also not investing," said Vikberg, adding: "Polls show that 50 percent of companies would increase their investments in Brazil if industrial and intellectual property were respected," he added.

"There are many countries (from East Europe for example) which are competing with Brazil to attract foreign investments," Vikberg said.

Flow of Foreign Capital Hits 10 Year Peak

PY2407144891 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jul 91 Economic Section p 1

[Reported by Antonio Felix]

[Text] Following a period of nearly 10 years, during which resources from foreign private investors stopped investing in Brazil because of the foreign debt crisis that began in 1982, Brazil is attracting dollars once again. "There are signs of change," said Central Bank President Francisco Gros yesterday at a luncheon sponsored by the chambers of commerce of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Gros revealed that the exit of money has decreased, while the entry of money has increased.

The Central Bank president affirmed that the remittance of profits and dividends dropped from $1.1 billion during the first quarter of 1990 to $315 million during the first quarter of 1991. Comparing these two periods, foreign loans increased 120 percent, to $504 million in March 1991. Between October of last year and March of this year, direct investments amounted to $676 million. Gros recalled: "This level is similar to that prior to the crisis of the 1980's."

The Central Bank president admitted that the climate for foreign capital is not yet right. There is too much bureaucracy involved in handling dollars and profit remittance is punishingly taxed. Yet, the willingness of the international market to grant credits to Brazilian enterprises lately is the most clear sign of change. Gros specifically cited the floating of Petrobras bonds, initially planned at $100 million and finally issued at $250 million to meet the large demand from foreign investors.

Gros said that the change reflects the series of concessions the country has made, like import liberalization through customs tax reduction, payment of foreign-debt interest, and negotiation with creditors.

Moreover, the Central Bank has recently removed a stumbling block: It eliminated the limit on interest rates on contracted international loans, which was set at 0.625 percent over LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate). The Petrobras bonds, for instance, were negotiated at 13.5 percent yearly, which is equivalent today to 4 percent over LIBOR, according to financial market experts.

Several other operations are currently underway. They include operations with bonds and also a new modality that was regulated this week by the Central Bank: The so-called "Export Guarantee" ["securitizacao das exportacoes"], which foresees the issuance of certificates that guarantee the resulting profit from the exports, deposited abroad. These two types of operations, worth more than $1 billion, will be placed on the international market over the next few days. The $1.5 billion in commercial papers [two preceding words in English] - certificates normally used by multinationals in purchasing operations that are partially paid with products or exports and that are used to lend money to subsidiaries in the country—are not included in the previously mentioned $1 billion.

The banks have been working intensely to prepare the new operations. According to Fabio Colletti Barbosa, Citibank vice president in charge of international finances, the Citibank has "a dozen" operations with bonds and with Export Guarantee certificates underway. In Barbosa's opinion, two basic factors have opened the international market to Brazil. First, the return of Mexico to the international market in October 1989 under similar circumstances has shown the way and, second, the Brazilian Government has changed its attitude regarding the foreign debt. "Last year, Mexico attracted $8 billion in capital," Barbosa said. "Just in bonds operations and Export Guarantee certificates, Brazil could attract between $5 and $10 billion in capital per year," he added.

Chile

Air Force Official Labels Transition 'Positive'

PY2407142891 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] General Ramon Vega, Chilean Air Force chief of staff, said today: I believe that the transition is being carried out successfully and positively.

Gen. Vega will become the new Air Force commander later this month. He spoke after meeting with President Patricio Aylwin at the La Moneda Palace this afternoon, saying that there has never been a division within the Armed Forces.

[Begin Vega recording] There can never be a division within the Armed Forces. There is only one united Armed Forces, which has one common mission: To defend the country, to be at the service of the country [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Asked about his relationship with Army Chief General Augusto Pinochet, Vega said:

[Begin recording] My relationship with General Pinochet has been good. I have a great deal of respect for Gen. Pinochet. [end recording]

Answering a question about the Armed Forces budget, Gen. Vega said:

[Begin recording] It is a good question, however, I believe that this comes under the jurisdiction of the defense minister. It is not for me to discuss this issue. [end recording]

Regarding how to resolve the violation of human rights committed during the previous regime, Vega said:

[Begin recording] This is not an issue under my jurisdiction either. I am the chief of staff of the Air Force. You should ask me questions related to the staff, and after 31 July you can ask me questions related to the chief of the Air Force position. [end recording]

Vega said that the Armed Forces have always participated in national public life, through prestigious professionals, who have been recognized nationally and internationally. Regarding the return of the Armed Forces to their specific duties, he said that this is an organizational matter.

Navy Chief Says Exercises Integrate Forces

PY2507031691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Admiral Jorge Martinez, Chilean Navy commander, said today that the Unitas joint naval exercises do not affect the profile of our institutions. He explained that the exercises scheduled for September seek to integrate Chilean and U.S. naval forces through personal meetings of officers to strengthen their friendship, which, in the case of the United States, has always been very strong.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Is the profile of our armed institutions lost in these exercises in terms of the influence that the U.S. Armed Forces may have; that is, to keep our identity?

[Martinez] I want to say that the profile is not lost. On the contrary, our profile is reaffirmed, because we are aware of our own capabilities and training and of the tactical and operational aspects over which there has always been a relationship of equality between the two forces. Therefore, the profile is not lost. I would say that this profile is reaffirmed through recognition of our capabilities and the differences between our methods and theirs. Therefore, the two forces come out ahead, and the two forces can be very proud of their (?capabilities). [end recording] [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Health Workers' Strike

PY2507034091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Regarding the health workers strike to begin at midnight, Health Minister Jorge Jimenez this afternoon released an official statement outlining the government position on the strike.

[Begin Jimenez recording] In light of the strike announced in the public health sector, the Health Ministry deems that it is its duty to report the following to the public:

First, the government is perfectly aware of the serious wage problem affecting health workers. For nearly two decades, this sector has experienced spending cuts that resulted in a sharp deterioration of health workers' salaries. The government is firmly determined to reverse this critical situation.

Second, the public should be aware of the fact that since its inauguration, the government has taken actions to gradually correct this unfair situation. In September 1990, a special readjustment was granted to health workers in addition to the general increase granted to all public servants. As a result of these efforts, health workers obtained a 10 percent increase in their real income, an increase that was far higher than the average granted to public servants in other sectors.

Third, Chilean people will not receive good health care if hospital and outpatient care workers do not receive an adequate salary that is commensurate with their delicate mission. For this reason, the government has decided to submit to Congress, in the next 60 days, a draft law establishing permanent mechanisms for improving health workers' salaries in order to bring them into line with equivalent categories included in the single wage scale. This final solution will be gradually implemented, retroactive to 1 August 1991, and will be completed in

1992 and 1993. This formal decision by the executive branch was duly reported to the leaders of Fenats [National Federation of Health Workers], who insisted on demanding a complete, immediate solution that the Chilean state cannot afford at this time.

Fourth, the country must also be aware that the government is seeking to solve other problems affecting the health sector, such as a lack of hospital equipment and ambulances, a shortage of facilities for emergency services, and a shortage of health posts in suburbs and rural areas, among others.

Fifth, we deeply regret that despite the government's efforts and commitments and despite our permanent disposition to dialogue with health workers' unions in an atmosphere of respect, Fenats has now called a strike that will obviously cause problems for patients and the people at large. We trust, however, that as soon as this pointless confrontation is over, we will be able to resume a constructive dialogue so that we can together find adequate and just solutions to health workers' problems.

Finally, the Health Ministry is prepared to give assurances to the Chilean people that every measure has been adopted to guarantee the operation of health facilities and to protect the people's health. Thank you. [end recording]

Carabineros Station Attacked; 9 Rebels Arrested

PY2307212091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Relay by Luis Brol]

[Text] The Carabineros have reported that at least nine men and a woman participated in a subversive action last night against the La Victoria Carabineros station in San Miguel District.

The extremist attack—for which the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] Lautaro movement claimed responsibility—occurred at 1930 when a terrorist cell member threw a homemade grenade at the police unit's back yard. The explosion caused minor damage.

The personnel on duty reacted to the aggression by the terrorist elements. This led one extremist to throw another explosive device, which did not explode because it was poorly made. At the same time, other terrorists fired many times at the police station, located at 4560 Primero de Mayo Street, with automatic weapons.

The police report adds that the shots came from the intersection of Aurora de Chile and Oscar Bonilla Streets, Libertad Street, and Primero de Mayo Street, but did not injure any Carabineros.

After the reaction of the personnel of the attacked Carabineros station, the terrorists fled in two taxis: the first was a Lada taxi with license plates BX7173 and the one was a Chevrolet Opala taxi with license plates CS4713. The taxis had been robbed a few minutes earlier from their owners at taxi stop No. 4 on Gran Avenida Jose M. Carrera Avenue and taxi stop No. 12 on Santa Rosa Street, respectively. Later, the two vehicles were found at 1367 Ismael Valdes Vergara Street and at 3055 (Porumpelo) Street, respectively. The Carabineros found the magazine of a 9mm Uzi submachine gun.

More details of the attack remain unknown, but it has been reported that the Carabineros have ordered procedures to find the attackers.

Prosecutor Indicts Two Lautaro Group Members

PY2307182091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The prosecutor investigating the murder of Prefect Hector Sarmiento has indicted two of the five members of the Lautaro Group, who were arrested by the Investigative Police in Concepcion.

Charges against the three other individuals, including the so-called machine gun woman, were lifted, but the three are still being held by a military court. [passage omitted]

The resolution says that the charges against Jaime Pinto, who was accused of masterminding the murder; Julio Prado, who was reportedly the driver; and Magdalena Gallardo, who evaluated the attack, have been lifted for lack of evidence, however, they remain under the jurisdiction of military prosecutors. Jaime Celis and Patricio Gallardo are still being held incommunicado. [passage omitted]

Chile, Zambia Resume Ties; Agreement Signed

PY2307202291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 22 Jul (EFE)—The Chilean Foreign Ministry reported today that as a result of negotiations, the two governments have held since March 1990, Chile and Zambia have resumed diplomatic ties. Chile and Zambia severed their diplomatic ties in 1973. In this regard, Zambian and Chilean diplomatic representatives signed an agreement in Nairobi on 18 July. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Government, Guerrillas Obey 48-Hour Cease-Fire

PA2407195391 Paris AFP in Spanish 1703 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jul (AFP)—Rafael Pardo, the presidential security adviser, has announced in Bogota that the Colombian Government and leftwing guerrillas, the latter being responsible for a devastating wave of violence against the country's economy, on 24 July observed a cease-fire that will last 48 hours or more.

The truce, which began on 23 July, facilitates the return to Colombia of subversives from the "Simon Bolivar" Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB), who attended two rounds of talks in Caracas, Venezuela, to seek solutions for the country's pacification.

Pardo told AFP that the truce has been respected throughout the country, but he condemned a 22 July dynamite attack on a gas pipeline that supplies propane gas to the Colombian capital; this attack caused serious ecological damage but no victims.

The attack took place in Los Alpes, only 40 km west of Bogota, and although respoonsibilty for the attack was not claimed by any subversive group, the system they used was the same used by rebels from the CGSB in February to blow up an alternate pipeline for the same route. Pardo said that history will judge those who are attacking the country's oil and power infrastructure, but he urged the subversive groups to contribute to the consolidation of peace and to cooperate with the country's social and economic development.

Pardo underscored on 23 July that President Cesar Gaviria's government is seriously fulfilling the promises made to the rebels, adding that military forces (police and Army) stopped all operations in the specific areas requested by the rebels.

Six commanders from the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and ELN [National Army of Liberation]—the groups that comprise the CGSB—were repatriated over the past few hours and transfered to the areas where the different guerrilla fronts operate. They will consultat with their leaders on the decisions and progress made at the pacification talks in Caracas.

All of the guerrillas must return to Caracas, Venezuela, on 26 August to initiate the third round of the dialogue.

Ecuador

* Ruling Party Maintains Alliance With Liberals

91SM0406A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish
4 Jul 91 p A-3

[Text] As was expected, the Executive Council of the Democratic Left [ID], meeting in Guayaquil, ratified the Liberal Party accord, excluding Deputy Carlos Chavez from the agreement.

The Orange leaders noted the need to maintain the alliance with the liberals in effect; consequently, the liberal militants collaborating with the government in various public enterprises will remain at their posts.

Furthermore, the Orange leaders resolved to hold talks with new Education Minister Raul Vellejo to give catalyst to an education policy consistent with social democratic doctrines.

Deputy Daniel Granda stated that they also agreed to authorize the bloc to have contact with different political sectors in Congress, to broaden the base of support for the president's actions.

According to his version, in the area of parliamentary activities the legislative bloc could engage in agreements, alliances or understandings with individual deputies or with other blocs. This decision is fundamental because, he said, under no circumstances can the party condone the bloc's activities, with respect to the pact with the liberals.

The primary obligation of the government and the legislative bloc is to defend their actions within Congress, and state their plans and programs to deputies who can support the cause.

* Armed Forces Respond to Bucaram's Comments

91SM0406B Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish
4 Jul 91 p A-1

[Text] The Armed Forces have rejected any actions intended to involve them in political rivalry or use them to satisfy personal interests, whatever their origin.

They also indicated that they would not allow their honor and that of their members to be offended or slandered in a gratuitous or unjustified manner, an action unworthy of those who consider themselves good Ecuadoreans, and that they must in every case guard and protect the dignity of the military institution, the custodian of the nation's civic and historic values.

The Armed Forces' announcement was contained in a public communique and apparently alludes to recent declarations by Roldosist Deputy Abdala Bucaram, in which he mentioned two former high Army officials.

The Armed Forces believe that their current challenge is to advance the progress of the republic, a challenge that can only be faced successfully if we unite in the patriotism, work, mutual respect and wisdom that today, more than ever, the situation requires.

The communique says that the military institution, in fulfilling its constitutional missions, fiercely united, is dedicated exclusively to professional activities: preservation of national sovereignty, defense of the State's integrity and independence, assurance of its legal order, and determined collaboration in the country's economic and social development.

Considered to be one of the most respectable, trustworthy and appreciated institutions—concepts manifested and expressed by the Ecuadorean citizenry—it maintains total and absolute independence in the face of political activities.

This solid institutional position, it notes, cannot be broken by any special interest or political game. The Armed Forces remain and will continue to remain independent and uninvolved in political contests. That does

not mean that the institution does not feel concern at the irresponsibility demonstrated in certain political acts and manifestations, and at the unworthy treatment of both personnel and institutions.

• Nebot Qualifies Support for Labor Reforms

91SM0406C Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 28 Jun 91 p 3

[Text] Quito—"In general terms, the Government's proposed Labor Code reforms are positive, but we believe they still fall short, because there are some laws that should be introduced to ensure the progress of business and labor interests," according to Social Christian Party [PSC] President Jaime Nebot Saadi, referring to the President's project and the initiation of its approval process in the National Congress.

He stated that the Ecuadoran Labor legislation reforms are necessary and indispensable, benefitting workers and business owners alike, given that the current law now constitutes a veritable straight-jacket.

He emphasized the benefits of the Government's project, with a three-day limit on solidarity strikes; an increased minimum number of workers in an enterprise to form unions and committees; and limits on indemnities to acceptable amounts comparable to the rest of the Andean region.

It Fell Short

"Nevertheless," he adds, "I believe that the government's plans and intentions fall short, since they do not demonstrate the necessary firmness in timeframes and terms for the collective settlement of a conflict, nor for indemnities for damages caused by those responsible for delays in settlement."

Nebot said that there should be flexibility in the collective settlement of conflicts, because "of what use is a reform that is, in theory, perfectly structured, if the settlement of an important labor problem, which should occur within a certain number of days, takes eight months or a year?" he asked.

Whether or not Other Activities Should Be Incorporated

He felt that other activities should be included, such as flower production and export, construction, mining and fishing, which are important because they undeniably constitute factors of a policy of encouraging domestic and foreign investment.

Public Sector Strikes

With respect to the right to strike, he said that in the public sector it should not be considered as a means of pressure to provoke failures, but rather a consequence of the latter which have resulted in incompletion or an incomplete transaction.

Salaries

He came out in favor of the National Development Council (CONADE) being the ideal entity to set the minimum wage, because it is comprised of representatives of labor, business and the Government.

Utilities

He came out in favor of excess business profits being earmarked for and going to workers, with the exception of oil industry profits, which now go to the Central Bank of Ecuador.

He Will Attend the Commission

Nebot said that he will be present at the Labor and Social Commission to broadly discuss the plan for structuring itself for the initial debate.

• 'Great Potential' for Free Trade Zone Noted

91SM0406D Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 29 Jun 91 p 9

[Text] Esmeraldas—The great potential for development of the Esmeraldas free trade zone has become evident with the interest shown by 70 Ecuadoran, Japanese and U.S. enterprises in participating in this industrial mechanism and Ecuadoran trade.

This was a conclusion of the report presented by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) staffers to Ecuadoran Industry Minister Dr Juan Falconi Puig.

The report was the result of studies that have been carried out since last February at the request of the Governments of Ecuador and Japan.

200 Business Leaders Surveyed

The report indicated that between February and March the Japanese experts carried out interviews with business leaders from Ecuador, Japan and the United States, of which 200 demonstrated interest in speaking out, and even more, 70 percent of these were willing to participate in the Esmeraldas free trade zone.

The survey raises hopes of putting into operation the first free trade zone on Ecuadoran territory, said Principal JICA staffer Hajime Koizumi on presenting the report to Minister Falconi.

Koizumi explained that 40 percent of the interested enterprises are textile firms, 15 percent are in food production, another small proportion are in the the area of forest products, and the remaining 15 percent are in different branches of production.

Infrastructure

The JICA's preliminary studies recommend utilization of an area of at least 22 hectares for the free trade zone.

It indicated that between 24 and 30 lots would be established for users, and it is emphasized that the free

trade zone should be integrated into the port of Esmeraldas, to optimize the use of transport facilities.

It recommended that the Ecuadoran Government assume responsibility for construction of the infrastucture.

They Will Inform Borja

Falconi Puig, after noting that the Government enjoys all the necessary support for development of a free trade zone in Ecuador, said that the Japanese report would be made known to President Rodrigo Borja.

It is recalled that free trade zones consist of perfectly designed areas of domestic territory in which special conditions are established with respect to customs duties, foreign trade, taxes, financing, foreign exchange, capital and labor.

Paraguay

Cuban Diplomat Views Bilateral Rapprochement

PY2407170291 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Jul 91 p 6

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Jose Fernandez Filela, the minister counselor and political attache at the Cuban Embassy in Montevideo who is on a private visit to our country, has spoken about rapprochement between Paraguay and Cuba. Fernandez Filela is the first Cuban diplomat to visit our country in more than 30 years.

It must be recalled that during the Ibero-American presidents' summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, General Andres Rodriguez and Cuban Chief of State Fidel Castro talked about the possibility of renewing relations between the two countries.

The Cuban diplomat said: "The rapprochement between Paraguay and Cuba is an historic event which shows the independence of Paraguayan Government foreign policy guidelines."

He explained that the chiefs of state of the two countries "have made a political decision," but the "formal aspects will have to be evaluated and a start will be made with consular and trade relations, which in fact are diplomatic relations that will function through a diplomatic and trade consulate," he said.

Fernandez Filela highlighted the importance of the rapprochement between his country and ours. "Fortunately, following a 30-year interruption we are once again approaching each other now that relations between Paraguay and Cuba have been talked about at the institutional level, and this is very important for us."

When asked if there was any relationship between Paraguayan leftist parties and the Cuban Communist Party, he said: "Not only with the leftist parties, other Paraguayan political sectors have also had relations with us; this has always been a tradition."

Finally, he stated that Cuba could purchase lumber, cotton, and household appliances from our country. It is our policy to purchase everything we need from Latin America," he stressed.

Peru

Cabinet Resigns on Anniversary of Government

PA2407185191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1801 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—All the Peruvian cabinet ministers have resigned on the occasion of the forthcoming first anniversary, on 28 July, of the Alberto Fujimori administration.

The 14 ministers in the cabinet have resigned in keeping with a Peruvian political tradition aimed at allowing presidents to freely make whatever cabinet changes they may find suitable.

Prime Minister Torres y Torres said: "All of us have resigned to give President Fujimori complete freedom to make cabinet changes or to confirm us in our positions."

The protocol type resignation was announced last week by Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, who did not say if any changes would eventually be made.

The Peruvian media has speculated that five ministers will be removed. Some media sources say that Torres y Torres Lara himself, who has headed Fujimori's second cabinet, will be relieved of his post.

Other media sources believe that in recent days the prime minister has consolidated his position. These sources also believe that Fujimori will keep his economy and finance minister, Carlos Bolona.

Terrorists Kill Businessman of Japanese Origin

PA2407160491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1413 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—Alleged members of the Shining Path [SL] terrorist group have murdered a businessman of Japanese descent. Manuel Inamine Shimabukuro was shot last night, when he was en route to a chicken farm he owned in the Ate-Vitarte District on the outskirts of Lima.

The murderers shot at the car in which the businessman was traveling with his wife, Elena Inamine. She was wounded, but managed to drive the car to a medical clinic in a futile attempt to save her husband's life.

The murderers, who escaped in another car, shot Manuel Inamine three times in the head.

This is the second attack on a person of Japanese descent in Peru, since three Japanese engineers were murdered on 12 July. The engineers headed an agricultural investigation center in Huaral, Lima Department, and their installations were destroyed by the terrorists.

One week ago in Huaral, alleged terrorists kidnapped a businessman of Japanese descent, Cesar Fukuda, and there has not been any news of him since.

Japanese Youth Aid Workers To Return Home

OW2507050391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0414 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, July 24 KYODO—All 52 Japanese Youth Aid volunteers working in Peru will return to Japan after a spate of terrorist attacks on Japanese and Japanese-Peruvians, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office here said Wednesday.

The JICA office said it received instructions from its main office in Tokyo, calling for the volunteers to begin preparing to return to Japan.

Exact schedules and methods of their return are not yet decided because the volunteers are assigned to different areas, the office said.

The other 35 people sent by JICA, including experts and other workers, may also leave Peru for security reasons soon, the office said.

The JICA office gathered all 52 Youth Aid workers in Lima since three of their agricultural engineers were shot to death by the Maoist terrorist group Shining Path on July 12.

The office said the volunteers are scheduled to leave Lima for their assigned areas after July 29 to prepare for returning to Japan.

They were expected to leave here by July 28 but Tuesday's killing of a Japanese-Peruvian businessman forced them to delay the schedule, the office said.

Guerrilla Paper Criticizes Japanese-Peruvians

OW2507045291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0232 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, July 24 KYODO—The Maoist guerrilla group Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) has criticized Japanese-Peruvians in an underground organ paper as bourgeois.

The Shining Path, believed to be behind the latest killing of a Peruvian businessman of Japanese descent on Tuesday, said in its June 19 edition paper that Japanese-Peruvians and politicians are exploiting poor Peruvians.

The paper described President Alberto Fujimori, who is the son of a Japanese immigrant, as a servant of imperialism who has had a bad effect on Peru in the past year.

It also said since the Japanese began moving into Peru in the late 19th century, they have consolidated their rule by cultivating sugar cane, and have become wealthy farm owners living in secluded houses.

The Shining Path killed three Japanese engineers on July 12 in Huaral, central Peru.

The group is also believed to be responsible for Tuesday's killing of a 56-year-old Japanese-Peruvian Manuel Inamine Shimabukuro, a poultry processing plant owner in suburban Lima.

Police said Wednesday that Shimabukuro had been threatened by guerrillas last year and that he may have encountered minor terrorist attacks before.

Police said the guerrillas' target seems to be wealthy Japanese-Peruvians.

* Captured Terrorist Denies Press Allegations

91WR0263A Lima CAMBIO in Spanish 27 Jun 91 pp 8-9

[CAMBIO report on a written interview with Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) leader Alberto Galvez Olaechea in Canto Grande prison; date not given]

[Text] Twenty-eight days after he was recaptured by the intelligence services of the Anti-Terrorism Office (DIRCOTE), Tupac Amaru leader Alberto Galvez Olaechea responds to a questionnaire sent by this publication to Canto Grande prison. He provides details of his arrest and explains alleged internal "differences" in MRTA. He also asserts that socialism is still a viable option for Peru.

[CAMBIO] Can you explain how your arrest came about? Is it true that it was the result of a meticulous intelligence effort, or did it just happen by chance?

[Galvez] My arrest was the result of an intelligence effort by the DIRCOTE. I do not yet have enough evidence to determine what enabled them to track me down, but there is no doubt about the fact that I was under surveillance and was being followed for days before they arrested me on 31 May. My fall into enemy hands will be evaluated, and the correct conclusions will be reached by the appropriate bodies of my organization.

[CAMBIO] You acknowledge, then, that you are a member of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement ...

[Galvez] It is public knowledge that I belong to MRTA. I am a member of the National Directorate of that organization, and as such, I assume full responsibility for that situation and that option. I have been saying this in the courts of justice since 1987.

[CAMBIO] Some press reports indicate rivalries between you and another leader of your organization, Victor Polay Campos, over personal issues. What do you have to say about that?

[Galvez] The allegations of a falling-out between me and Comrade Victor Polay over personal issues are part of a crass, malicious campaign in the context of the so-called psychological warfare that this government is waging, which consists of discrediting revolutionary leaders.

There was never any sentimental relationship between my comrade Rosa Luz Padilla Baca and the MRTA commander, so it is impossible to speak of minor rivalries.

In fact, a whole string of lies has been told these past weeks, and it would take a long time to discuss all of them. I will try, therefore, to focus on the key issues. In the first place, I never opposed the North-Eastern campaign and the taking of prisoners in Rioja, nor is it true that Comrade Polay was in the minority in that regard. In the second place, the existence [within MRTA] of *apristas* [APRA (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance) party sympathizers], *miristas* [MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) party sympathizers], or *sicilianos* [radical MRTA militants], as indicated in a report in the daily LA REPUBLICA several weeks ago, is totally false, the product of a feverish imagination that should be devoted to better causes. Finally, relations with the ETA or the OLP are grotesque inventions.

[CAMBIO] And what do you have to say about a report in the magazine CARETAS to the effect that you were thinking of leaving MRTA and going to Italy?

[Galvez] The trip to Italy reported in CARETAS is a fantastic creation of unscrupulous journalists. I have never thought of leaving MRTA, let alone leaving Peru. There is too much to be done in our fatherland for me to be thinking of ensuring my own safety. For those who know me, and even for the DIRCOTE, what CARETAS said is just a sick joke.

[CAMBIO] On the other hand, what is your assessment of your organization's current situation?

[Galvez] MRTA's situation, in the wake of the III Central Committee of August 1990, is one of steady ascent and consolidation. With regard to the rural guerrilla force, for example, in the last few months we have seen a resurgence of the Southern Front, the revitalization of the Central Front, and the advances in the North-East. All of this is proof of the level attained by our forces in the countryside. They have also extended their area of operations.

As for the urban forces, both political and military, they have been striking audacious blows and expanding their influence in major popular sectors.

Without fear of being too smug, I believe we are at a good moment, despite the problems posed by growth and the blows the enemy may deal us.

[CAMBIO] What importance does your organization attribute to the capture and later release of the nine police officers in Rioja, San Martin?

[Galvez] With respect to the nine prisoners in Rioja, that action was approved by the National Directorate and successfully carried out by the comrades of the North-East, surpassing the original objectives. That action not only demonstrated the degree of development the Tupac Amaru Popular Army has achieved, but also pointed up the lack of morale among the forces of repression. The most important thing is our organization's scrupulous adherence to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols referring to internal wars.

[CAMBIO] Moving on to another issue, some experts on subversion are of the opinion that MRTA will very likely lay down its arms, just as M-19 did in Colombia. Do you think that is a real possibility?

[Galvez] The predictions of these "experts" on subversion hardly ever come true, so I think they should not be taken very seriously.

The MRTA was born and exists to make revolution in Peru, using for this purpose the means that are best suited to our specific historic conditions. At present, with a huge economic crisis that has been dumped on the people, with an antinational, antipopular and repressive government, amid a worsening social conflict, could anyone seriously propose that we lay down our arms? Can we make concessions to a government that concedes nothing to the people?

Furthermore, any reasonable and objective person can see that we are not the ones who are losing the war. What could justify MRTA's abandoning the armed struggle? The experts' assessment is totally groundless.

[CAMBIO] Considering the crisis that real socialism is undergoing, do you think the socialist alternative is still viable for our country?

[Galvez] Socialism is still a viable option in Peru, and not just here. We do not believe that humanity is condemned to living with exploitation, discrimination, and destructive wars.

We are convinced that mankind aspires to social justice, to true democracy, to ending the exploitation of man by man, and to solidarity and respect among men and nations. That is what we call socialism.

The bureaucratic and authoritarian collectivism that has been defeated is not our option, but even less so is savage capitalism, with its unquenchable thirst for profit, its subservience to imperialism, and its repression of the dispossessed.

Mariategui laid the foundation of Peruvian socialism. Today it is our job to build it.

*** Apurimac Growers Comment on Antidrug Agreement**

91WD0987A Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with several leaders of the "Federation of Coca Leaf Growers of the Apurimac River" by Pedro Salinas; date not given]

[Text] To talk about the Antidrug Agreement, its ramifications, and possible substitute crops that may be grown in the jungle region that comprises Ayacucho, part of Cusco, and Junin, EXPRESO met with the principal leaders of the Federation of Coca Leaf Growers of the Apurimac River. Participating in the interview were Jesus Pariona Vargas, chairman of the Federation of Coca Farmers of Apurimac; Hugo Huillca Ovalle, coordinator of that organization; Artemio Arana Ludena, chairman of the Acon region (Huanta); and Victor Ore Escalante, representative of the coca leaf producers of Choymacota and Ipabamba. Here are their statements:

[Salinas] How many coca farmers does the Federation of Coca Leaf Growers of the Apurimac River represent?

We represent 25,000 farmers who are heads of household, among a population of approximately 120,000. Our territory covers the jungle regions of the departments of Ayacucho, part of Cusco, and Junin, and both banks of the Apurimac and Ene Rivers, which includes all of the jungle area of the provinces of Huanta and La Mar in Ayacucho, the districts of Quimbiri and Echarate in Cusco, and San Martin de Pangoa in the province of Satipo-Junin.

[Salinas] What is your opinion of the Antidrug Agreement signed between the Peruvian Government and the United States?

In general, we think that if the agreement is followed to the letter, it will be positive for coca leaf growers.

[Salinas] But judging by the way you say that, you seem a little skeptical ...

We agricultural producers are used to being deceived by government after government. The promise of alternative development is nothing new to us. But in the specific case of the Antidrug Agreement, the participation of the United Nations in supervising the agreement gives us confidence. That is why we want to avail ourselves of the provisions of the Antidrug Agreement.

Of course, we think that a fundamental prerequisite as the first step toward replacing coca production is direct aid to peasant coca growers. That is their principal source of income.

[Salinas] Therefore, you propose that you be compensated financially for the coca fields that each coca leaf producer owns ...

Yes, that is right. With that economic support, we could put other areas into production to grow alternative crops. But this requires a great deal of investment. Any alternative development program takes between 3 and 5 years, and meanwhile, what would we live on?

Alternative Crops

[Salinas] What crops can be grown as replacements in the Apurimac River Valley?

Basically, cacao and coffee. But annatto [anchiote], palillo, or great mullein [barbasco] could also be grown. The problem is, these products are not even priced on the market. They are not profitable.

[Salinas] What other problems are there in connection with these crops?

Well, in the first place, they cannot be taken out of the area because the roads are in such poor condition. In the second place, merchants pay us exceedingly low prices for these products.

[Salinas] How much is a kilo of cacao selling for?

In the Apurimac River area, a kilo of cacao costs between 0.35 and 0.40 soles right now. To give you an idea, sugar costs 1 sol a kilo. So for us to buy a kilo of sugar, we would have to sell 2.5 kilos of cacao, or 2.5 kilos of coffee.

Communication

[Salinas] You stated that one of the main problems in the region, one that has caused the peasants in the Apurimac River Valley to turn to coca leaf production, is the lack of communication infrastructure and the deficient state of the roads.

That is right. Every administration has neglected the roads. To travel the 208 kilometers between Ayacucho and the Apurimac River, it takes 18 to 20 hours, that is, if there are no landslides. Sometimes the trip takes up to 3 days.

[Salinas] And your products spoil on the way.

Exactly. That is the big problem.

[Salinas] Which roads need to be fixed?

First of all, the Ayacucho-Tambo-Apurimac River highway needs to be paved and widened. In addition, it is important to continue building the main road that connects Rosario, Acon, Choymacota, Ipabamba, Vizcatan, and San Jose de Santillana; the narrow road that has been built is due to the initiative and funding of local residents.

[Salinas] How many kilometers long is the Ayacucho-Tambo-Apurimac River highway?

Approximately 200 kilometers.

[Salinas] And the main road connecting Rosario, Acon, Choymacota, Ipabamba, Vizcatan, and San Jose de Santillana?

The same, 200 kilometers. In this case, we have built a narrow road 65 kilometers long, but we have been unable to continue due to the lack of machinery and funding.

Subversives

[Salinas] Do any subversive elements have a presence in the Apurimac River Valley?

Shining Path (SL) has been active in the Apurimac River Valley, especially in the Perene Valley area. The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) has no presence in the region, and it never has. As for the Senderists, we have had some unfortunate experiences. Our problem is that we were caught in the crossfire. There was SL on one side and law enforcement on the other. We were taken for terrorists or linked to drug trafficking. But now we are organized. Throughout the Apurimac River Valley there are nearly 280 civil defense groups that are coordinated by the Army on an ongoing basis. Since the Army took over the whole Apurimac River Valley, SL has ceased to exist.

The problem lies along the route between the Apurimac River and Ayacucho. But in the valley the subversives are being controlled by the Army and the civil defense organizations.

[Salinas] Has your federation drawn up any plan for crop substitution in the area?

We have drafted a number of projects and submitted them to the various government entities in Peru and even the UN. One of them involves processing cacao and coffee in Ayacucho. To date we have not received any response. We want crop substitution, but with alternative development, as provided in the Antidrug Agreement.

On the other hand, we have proposed the development of the Teresita Airport, located in Quimbiri-San Francisco. Improving this airport would enable us to send our farm products to various parts of the country and to begin exporting them, as called for in the Antidrug Agreement. To implement this proposal, we think it would be feasible to sign a pact with Air Group No. 8 of the Peruvian Air Force (FAP).

[Salinas] What would you like to add?

Well, we would like to take the opportunity EXPRESO has given us to ask President Fujimori to meet with us so that we can explain to him personally all the problems we coca leaf producers face in the Apurimac River Valley, under the provisions of the Antidrug Agreement. This document states that we are valid and direct interlocutors in our capacity as coca leaf producers.

* Executive Legislation Guidelines Published

91SM0397B Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 18 Jun 91 p A4

[Text] In order for the President to be able to legislate on issues involving national pacification, employment promotion and investment growth, yesterday the official daily EL PERUANO published Law 25327, which makes official the powers of delegation approved by the National Parliament last month.

With these legal powers, the President will be able to dictate legislation on the three aforementioned areas for a period of 150 days. Legislation that is decreed should fall within the guidelines established by the national representatives.

National Pacification

According to the law published yesterday, the guidelines within which national pacification legislation may be decreed are the following:

a) Develop an integrated strategy aimed at eradicating terrorist subversion and illegal drug trafficking, with the people's participation in the tasks of pacification and self-defense and strengthening civil authority throughout the country.

b) Restructure the National Defense System, establishing a Unified Command and an Operative Command that will permit improvements in the military and police activities corresponding to the Ministries of Defense and the Interior, respectively.

c) Develop and publish educational programs that support democratic values and neutralize the influence of terrorist subversion, with the support of the media, in accordance with Article 37 of the Constitution.

d) Improve the logistical, strategic, intelligence and operational capabilities of the Armed Forces and the National Police for the eradication of terrorist subversion and illegal drug trafficking, within budgetary constraints.

e) Monitor compliance of and support for human rights, effectively ensuring actions by the Public Ministry in case of violation of the same.

Employment Promotion

On employment promotion, there may be legislation to:

a) Promote massive access to employment in accordance with Articles 42 and 43 of the Constitution.

b) Create new opportunities for employment, develop flexible methods of labor contracting including direct agreement between employers and workers, and improve the performance of small and micro-enterprises and self-employed workers. This will be effected with special

attention to decentralization criteria and respect for the constitutional norms of labor stability and the workers' acquired rights.

c) Formally consolidate the current system of social benefits.

Investment Growth

Investment growth may be legislated to:

a) Create the necessary conditions for the development of private investment in the various productive sectors (agriculture, mining, fishing, industry, infrastructure) with particular attention to export activity.

b) Perfect the mechanisms of interaction in markets at the subregional and international levels in general, seeking the greatest return on domestically produced exports.

c) Eliminate monopolistic, controlist and restrictive practices affecting free competition in the production of goods and services, permitting free enterprise to develop seeking the greatest return to the owners.

d) Support honesty and correctness in foreign business activities.

e) Support consumer rights.

In addition, it was also indicated that within 90 days the President will present to Congress the proposed laws regarding reform of Public Administration and State Enterprise Activities, issues for which the delegation of legislative power was not authorized, considering that this was not requested.

Finally, it was indicated that the President's legislative decrees related to these delegated powers would be in effect 30 days after their publication in EL PERUANO.

Guyana

Western Donors Offer To Ease Debt Burden

FL2007124391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1209 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 20, CANA—Sixty-five per cent of Guyana's merchandise export earnings in 1991-1992 will be used for debt servicing, Guyana's Finance Minister Carl Greenidge has said here. He said that Western donors have expressed "concern" at this disclosure and have all pledged to ease the debt burden. Guyana owes creditors about U.S. 2 billion dollars.

Greenidge, who represented Guyana at the meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-Operation in Economic Development (OGCED) in Paris earlier this month, came away dissatified with the amount of financial assistance pledged by the Western donors. Much of the assistance, Greenidge said, will not be in cash, but mostly in the form of debt write-offs and debt rescheduling.

While in Paris, Greenidge signed a debt rescheduling agreement with the French Government and is poised to sign another with the Netherlands in Aruba later this month. Guyana has already had a substantial part of its North American debt written off. Canada last year cancelled nearly Cdn 38 million dollars of Guyana's debt and Denmark, the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, France, the United Kingdom, and several other countries have rescheduled debts over the past two years. Guyana owes fellow Caribbean Community country Trinidad and Tobago an estimated U.S. 450 million dollars mostly for petroleum imports.

The finance minister told journalists that commercial banks are now considering a partial debt write off. The Royal Bank of Canada is leading the consideration. He said that the U.S. urged other donors to seriously consider writing off debts, particularly those who are not in a position to give cash grants. These debts could be written off between now and 1993.

Greenidge said that this exercise will make new resources available for other economic activity which would have otherwise gone towards debt servicing. The Guyana economy could grow by between 3 to 4 per cent this year, according to current economic trends.

Greenidge said that the economic recovery programme is now beginning to yield the results the Hoyte administration had anticipated when the programme was fashioned two years ago. Launched by the government in 1989, the programme has not had the desired level of impact on improving the standard of living. Four devaluations since then have sent prices soaring.

Green 'May Challenge' Hoyte for PNC Leadership

FL1907233391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2131 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 19, CANA—Guyana's Prime Minister Hamilton Green announced Friday that he may challenge President Desmond Hoyte for leadership of the People's National Congress [PNC] at its conference in August.

Green, a deputy party leader, who's acting President of Guyana while Hoyte is overseas, told journalists at a press conference at the PNC headquarters that he will make the decision at the appropriate time.

There have been rumours here of a rift between both men which some observers say is highlighted by the removal from Green of the government portfolios of Sport and Public Utilities, leaving him with responsibility only for Health.

The Socialist Party, which was dominated by Forbes Burnham until his death in 1985, has seldom seen challenges for the top leadership position. One observer said it was now or never for Green if he harbours ambitions of leading the country.

A general election is due by yearend which many say will be the stiffest challenge for the party in its near 27-year hold on the government.

"If circumstances dictate, I believe that I have the experience to provide competent and effective leadership," Green said. He said when Burnham died, people felt that the PNC would have disintegrated since they believed nobody from within its ranks could have been found to lead it.

But, he said, if something happened to Hoyte, any other government minister, or Green himself, the PNC has the resilience to provide people from within its ranks to take up the leadership mantle. Green scoffed at rumours that Hoyte might bypass him and chose former Vice President Cammie Ramsaroop as running mate for the forthcoming general election.

Parliament Again Extended for Election Plans

FL2407220791 Bridgetown CANA in English
2046 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 24, CANA—The life of Guyana's National Assembly is to be extended for the fourth time when it meets on Friday. The extensions to the five-year life of the Parliament are to allow the government to prepare for overdue general elections.

The Assembly will be prolonged from August 3 to September 30. The motion to extend the life of Parliament will be moved by Attorney General and Legal Affairs Minister Keith Massiah, who piloted the last three extensions.

The administration of President Desmond Hoyte says that this extension is needed to prepare the preliminary voters list and allow for opposition parties to file claims and objections. Opposition parties have strenuously objected to the extensions since the first one for two-months in mid-January.

Guyana's Parliament was to have been dissolved on February 2, paving the way for general elections by the latest May 2. In January, to show their disapproval, opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) parliamentarians banged ashtrays, pushed law volumes to the floor, removed the speaker's mace, and one hurled a glass of water in the direction of House Speaker Sase Narain. The extensions have resulted in the resignation en masse of the entire opposition bench from the Assembly.

Parliament must be dissolved at the end of the forthcoming extension and elections held within three months of the dissolution.

Opposition Leader on Ruling Party Leadership

FL2207115291 Bridgetown CANA in English
2128 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 20, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan warned Saturday that a presumed rivalary between President Desmond Hoyte and Prime Minister Hamilton Green over the presidency may explode at the ruling party's crucial congress early next month. Jagan, in an interview with CANA Saturday, was reacting to comments by the prime minister who said Friday that he may challenge President Hoyte for the leadership of the People's National Congress [PNC] and presidency of Guyana.

The opposition leader dubbed Green's reaction as "understandable" since the prime minister was senior to Hoyte in the PNC. Jagan said that the 56-year-old prime minister feels that he should have inherited the mantle of leadership six years ago when President Forbes Burnham died in office. However, Jagan said that Hoyte was promoted in 1985 by Burnham before his death to the prime ministership instead of Green.

"Now it is mooted that that Desmond Hoyte is looking for an Indian, possibly (PNC chairman) Cammie Ramsaroop, or (Trade Minister) Winston Murray for his running mate, which means that that person would automatically become prime minister if the PNC wins the forthcoming election," the 73-year old Marxist politician said.

"In the new situation which seems to be emerging, Hamilton Green might feel more peeved and consequently gives this kind of impression that he might challenge Hoyte at the coming congress."

WPA Unwilling To Sign Peace Accord

FL2307171991 Bridgetown CANA in English
1655 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 23, CANA—The opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) says it will not sign an accord with the major parties to ensure a peaceful forthcoming campaign for elections here later this year. The WPA, in a statement, said it objected to the position of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) that itself and the main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) would sign the agreement first, followed by the other parties.

The WPA said it was "offensive" to the dignity of other parties to expect them to append their signatures to a PNC/PPP peace accord when the WPA was one of the contributing parties which led to the drafting of the peace accord. The accord is aimed at preventing violence and racial slurs before, during, and after the general elections. It also seeks to condemn any person or political party which encourages such violence.

While declaring that it remained fully in favour of the substance of the accord, the WPA said it demanded to be treated as an equal with the PNC and PPP. Otherwise, the WPA would not sign the document, the statement said.

President Desmond Hoyte has accused PPP leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan of "grand-standing and playing to the gallery" because of Jagan's refusal to sign the accord with the PNC alone. Jagan has taken the position that all parties should sign the accord simultaneously.